FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-92-103
Thursday
28 May 1992

Daily Report
East Asia

FBIS-EAS-92-103 CONTENTS *28 May 1992*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Takeshita To Try for More U.S. Bases Funding *[KYODO]* ... 1
Guntenkyo Plans New List of 'Requested Areas' *[RYUKYU SHIMPO 28 May]* ... 1
Electronics Leader Asks for Patience From U.S. *[KYODO]* ... 2
Firms React to U.S. Review of Microchip Pact *[KYODO]* ... 2
Steelmakers Appeal to U.S. Officials on Dumping *[KYODO]* ... 2
JAMA Says Car Exports Decline From Year Ago *[KYODO]* ... 3
Sakata Comments on U.S. Plutonium Shipping Bill *[Tokyo TV]* ... 3
Ministry, U.S. To Cooperate on Road Technology *[KYODO]* ... 3
Japanese-NAFTA Consultative Forum Urged *[KYODO]* ... 3
Watanabe Supports Estonia on Pullout of Troops *[KYODO]* ... 4
C. Itoh To Import Natural Gas From Russia *[KYODO]* ... 5
Companies Plan Hokkaido-Sakhalin Ferry Route *[KYODO]* ... 5
First PRC-Russia-Japan Shipping Route Planned *[KYODO]* ... 5
PRC's Wan Li on Friendly Sino-Japanese Ties *[KYODO]* ... 5
PRC Provincial Trade Delegation Visits Okinawa *[Naha TV]* ... 6
Tokyo To Be Invited To Attend CSCE Meetings *[Tokyo TV]* ... 6
Firms Encouraged To Review Business Practices *[KYODO]* ... 6
Watanabe Pledges 2.3 Billion Yen for Mongolia *[KYODO]* ... 7
Mongolian Premier Seeks Further Aid for Reforms *[KYODO]* ... 7
Tokyo Offers $67 Million in Assistance to Mongolia *[KYODO]* ... 8
Saudi Minister Opposes Oil 'Environmental Tax' *[KYODO]* ... 9
Saudi Talks End Without Tokyo Tax Commitment *[KYODO]* ... 9
Burmese Dissidents Rally in Tokyo for Suu Kyi *[KYODO]* ... 10
Kubota Plans Technology Transfer to SRV Farms *[KYODO]* ... 10
Tokyo To Extend Cambodia 500 Million-Yen Grant *[KYODO]* ... 10
SDPJ's Tanabe Shows Flexibility on PKO Bill *[Tokyo TV]* ... 11
LDP Seeks End of Peacekeeping Bill Debate *[KYODO]* ... 11
SDP Willing To Debate Voting Reapportionment *[KYODO]* ... 11
New-Japan Party Unveils Four Candidates for Jul *[KYODO]* ... 12
LDP Panel Urges Supplementary Budget in Autumn *[KYODO]* ... 12
Official Hints Early Setting of Budget Ceiling *[KYODO]* ... 13
Miyazawa Gives Views on Economic Situation *[KYODO]* ... 13
Bill Cleared To Form Securities Watchdog Body *[KYODO]* ... 13
Steelmakers To Continue Curbing Production *[KYODO]* ... 13
'Pioneering' CFC Disposal Technique Developed *[KYODO]* ... 14
Panel Cautious on Carbon Dioxide Emissions Tax *[KYODO]* ... 14
Agency Issues Annual 'White Paper' on Aging *[KYODO]* ... 14

North Korea

Army Delivers Remains of U.S. MIA's at Panmunjom *[KCNA]* ... 15
'American Freedom Coalition' Delegation Visits *[KCNA]* ... 15
Statement Issued on Asylum for Student in Moscow *[KCNA]* ... 16
Malaysian Information Minister, Delegation Arrive *[KCNA]* ... 16
    Information Agreement Signed *[BERNAMA]* ... 16
    Kim Il-song Receives Delegation *[KCNA]* ... 17
    Further on Meeting With Kim Il-song *[BERNAMA]* ... 17
    Kim Yong-sun Meets Group *[KCNA]* ... 17

'No Progress' Made in 5th Nuclear Control Meeting *[Pyongyang Radio]* 17
N-S Red Cross Meetings on Exchanges Proposed *[KCNA]* 19
Radio Denies Defector's Allegations on Control *[Radio VNS]* 19
Daily Demands South Halt 'Confrontation' *[KCNA]* 20
Daily Stresses Need for World Independence, Peace *[KCNA]* 20

South Korea

UN Command Receives Remains of MIA's *[YONHAP]* 21
Steel Companies Accuse U.S. Makers of Dumping *[YONHAP]* 21
Tripartite Talks on North Nuclear Issue Set *[YONHAP]* 21
World Support for Nuclear Inspections Sought *[YONHAP]* 21
North Believed To Have 15 Kg Plutonium Extract *[YONHAP]* 22
Separate Checks on Military Facilities Considered *[YONHAP]* 22
Bilateral Fisheries Talks Held With PRC *[YONHAP]* 23
Talks With Japan Fail To Detail 'Action Plan' *[YONHAP]* 23
Energy Projects With Mongolia Considered *[YONHAP]* 23
Defector Reveals Clandestine Radio Operations *[Seoul TV]* 24
Kim Tae-chung Interviewed After Nomination *[Seoul TV]* 24

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

Committee Formed To Discuss National Convention *[Rangoon Radio]* 26
  Meeting Date, Specifics Set *[Rangoon Radio]* 26

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Singapore

Police To Arrest Trespassers on Disputed Island *[THE STRAITS TIMES 22 May]* 27
Joint Naval Exercise With Indonesia Held *[THE STRAITS TIMES 22 May]* 28

Cambodia

Sihanouk Presides at 10th SNC Meeting 26 May *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 28
  Communique on SNC Meeting Issued *[SPK]* 28
More Khmer Rouge Cease-Fire Violations Alleged *[SPK]* 29
Khmer Rouge Said To Obstruct Peace Accord *[SPK]* 30
Vigilance Urged for SRV 'Tricks', 'Schemes' *[Radio VGNUFC]* 30
Ranariddh Maintains Veracity of SRV Presence *[Radio VOK]* 30
Phnom Penh Said To Hide Arms in Battambang *[Radio VGNUFC]* 31
Hun Sen's 15 May 'Calumnious' Remarks Clarified *[Radio VOK]* 31
Hun Sen Receives French City Delegation 20 May *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 32
Sihanouk Receives UNHCR Representative 21 May *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 32
Hor Namhong Appeals for 171,000 Tons of Rice *[SPK]* 32
Laws on Information, Press Ministries Viewed *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 32
Son Sann Thanks Khieu Samphan for Support *[Radio VGNUFC]* 33
Sihanouk Writes Chea Sim on Helicopter Crash *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 34
Bou Thang Visits People in Ratanakiri Province *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 34

Indonesia

PRC General Interviewed on Bilateral Relations *[KOMPAS 18 May]* 34
Advocates of Poll Boycott Face Legal Sanctions *[AFP]* 34

Philippines

Joint Military Team To Revise Defense Treaty *[Quezon City Radio]* 35
Canada Grants $15 Million for Oil Exploration *[MALAYA 28 May]* 36

New UK Ambassador to Manila Accredited *[BUSINESS WORLD 28 May]* 36
Libya Assures on Not Supporting Terrorist Groups *[Manila Radio]* 36
Police Deny Embassies Asked for Special Security *[Quezon City Radio]* 36
Aquino: Government Can Thwart Any Coup Attempt *[Quezon City Radio]* 36
Muslim Group Expresses Support for Ramos *[Manila Radio]* 37
Congress Begins Vote Count After Delay *[Manila Radio]* 37
Unofficial Count To End 29 May *[Manila Radio]* 37
Ramos Still Leading *[Manila Radio]* 37
Poll Officials Discuss Election Mechanics *[Manila Radio]* 37

Thailand

Government Parties Name Sombun Rahong as Premier *[Bangkok Radio]* 43
Further on Sombun Nomination *[THE NATION 28 May]* 43
Democracy Group Warns New Crisis Possible *[AFP]* 45
Coalition Parties Urged To 'Step Aside' *[BANGKOK POST 27 May]* 45
Dailies View Problems in Forming New Government *[THAI RAT, etc 27 May]* 46
Constitutional Tribunal Considers Amnesty Decree *[Bangkok Radio]* 47
Army Commander Warns Against Seeking Retribution *[THE NATION 28 May]* 47
Rightist Group Plans To Fight Democracy Activists *[BANGKOK POST 28 May]* 48
Alleged Money Transfer for Suchinda Denied *[THE NATION 26 May]* 48
Continued Turmoil Threatens Economic Boom *[AFP]* 49
Former Premier Anan on Suchinda's Resignation *[Bangkok Radio]* 49
Foreign Minister Urges Normal Ties With Taiwan *[Taipei CNA]* 50

Vietnam

Vice Minister Meets U.S. Officials in Washington *[VNA]* 50
Foreign Minister Visits France 24-26 May *[VNA]* 50
Joint Business Leaders Explore Trade Options *[VNA]* 51
Consular Affairs Official Meets Thai Ambassador *[VNA]* 51
Success of Nonaligned Movement Conference Hailed *[Hanoi Radio]* 51
Central Vietnam Telecommunication Line Inaugurated *[Hanoi Radio]* 52
Do Muoi Speaks at Women's Union Congress 53
Part 1 *[Hanoi Radio]* 53
Part 2 *[Hanoi Radio]* 55
Obeying Ho Chi Minh's Military Teachings Urged *[Hanoi Radio]* 56

AUSTRALASIA

Fiji

Mara Says India Only Obstacle to Respectability *[AFP]* 58
Rabuka Outlines Government Policies if Elected *[AFP]* 58
Candidate for Premier Views Election Process *[AFP]* 59

Japan

Takeshita To Try for More U.S. Bases Funding

OW2805023992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0212 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] New York, May 27 KYODO—Former Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita vowed Wednesday to try to secure an increase in Japan's share of the financial burden of maintaining U.S. troops in Japan.

Takeshita told the annual convention of the Japan Society that he is willing to make further efforts to ensure the smooth management of the Japan-U.S. security pact and to promote trust between the two nations.

Some Asian countries are concerned about Japan's defense budget but the Japan-U.S. security system is the key to the stability of the Asia-Pacific region, he said.

"Asia-Pacific nations are strongly hoping that the United States will continue to maintain the forward deployment strategy," Takeshita said. "The Japan-U.S. security system is playing an important part in securing the presence of U.S. forces in this region."

The former prime minister indicated that Japan's efforts on its defense budget is useful in maintaining a U.S. commitment to the safety of the Asia-Pacific region.

Japan currently shoulders 50 percent of the cost of keeping some 50,000 U.S. military personnel stationed in the country and has agreed to boost the share to 73 percent by 1995.

Takeshita said Japan is determined to fulfill its responsibilities for establishing a new international order and for peace and prosperity of the world.

In this respect, he cited economic and technical aid to developing countries and other nations moving toward a market-oriented economy, disarmament and arms control, global environmental preservation, and measures for refugees.

Turning to Japan's proposed participation in U.N. peacekeeping operations, Takeshita said Japan should not only provide financial cooperation but also strengthen its cooperation in personnel.

He added the government is making strenuous efforts to enact the peacekeeping cooperation bill so Japan can systematically participate in the U.N. operations.

A bill that would allow the dispatch overseas of Japan's Self-Defense Forces is pending in the House of Councillors after passing through the House of Representatives last December.

Guntenkyo Plans New List of 'Requested Areas'

OW2805052092 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 28 May 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] The 1992 regular plenary session of the Okinawa Consultative Council To Facilitate Conversion of Military-Used Land and To Address Base-Land Issues (Guntenkyo; chaired by Prefectural Governor Ota) was held at Okinawa Rainbow Hotel in Naha on 27 May, and adopted the project plan for 1992. According to the plan, the organization, as it has done so far, will call on Japanese and U.S. Governments to legislate special laws to facilitate the conversion of the military land, and to return or scale down military bases on Okinawa. Twice in the past, Guntenkyo has filed requests calling for the return of areas of facilities, presenting the plans for use of these areas. In the latest plenary session, Guntenkyo, for the first time in two years, decided it should prepare a list of additionally requested areas.

Opening the plenary session, Governor Ota said: "On 15 May, the 20th anniversary of Okinawa's reversion to Japan, there was notification on the withdrawal of the urban combat training facility which has been so strongly desired by the people of the prefecture. But other requests such as those on the return of the Naha Military Port and Okuma Rest Center or the ban on the shelling exercises over prefectural highway 104 were not included in the action. It cannot be said that the desires of the people have been met. We will continue to strive, pursuant to the will of all the people of the prefecture."

He referred to the problem of tank roads being built in Camp Schwab, and expressed regret, saying: "This project which leads to the strengthening of bases and the destruction of nature must be stopped immediately."

Guntenkyo of Okinawa, established 15 years ago, is a consultative organization, made up of the prefectural government and 31 township offices with bases in their areas, wanting to solve in cooperation various problems that arise from the presence of U.S. military bases and Japanese Self-Defense Force bases.

In the plenary session, Guntenkyo decided as part of the project plan for this year that it should prepare a new list of facilities requested for return, and file requests with the Japanese and U.S. Governments to return without delay these facilities in addition to those already asked to be returned. Guntenkyo in 1986 filed a request to return a total of about 2,074 hectares in 13 facilities, and then in 1992 filed another request to return an additional 1,078 hectares in 12 facilities.

While there has been a total of 2,152 hectares of land requested to be returned as such, there has been an agreement to return only 12 percent of the area—at a meeting of the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee in June 1990. The fact is that even the ones returned have not been those requested by Okinawa. Given this situation, there were propoals at a meeting of Guntenkyo representatives held before the plenary session, that a new request list to add to the previous two should be made. In order to come up with the new list, surveys will be conducted on the facilities to be returned.

Among other items of the project plan is a meeting between the leadership of Guntenkyo and the Defense Facilities Administration Bureau in Naha in June to exchange views.

Electronics Leader Asks for Patience From U.S.

OW2705130192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1233 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO—A Japanese electronics industry leader indicated Wednesday it would be difficult to quickly boost foreign share in Japan's computer chip market.

Moriya Shiki, chairman of the Electronic Industries Association of Japan (EIAJ) and president of Mitsubishi Electric Corp., appealed to U.S. chip makers to be patient.

Under a Japan-U.S. semiconductor trade agreement signed last year, Japan pledged as a target to raise the foreign share in the Japanese semiconductor market to 20 percent by the end of this year from the present level of around 11 percent.

Shiki said the U.S. is impatient and wants Japan to attain the goal quickly.

He said Japan will speak out [as received] if the U.S. makes an unreasonable argument.

The United States is expected to press for Japan to attain the goal by the end of this year during two-day semiconductor trade negotiations to be held in Tokyo on June 4-5, Japanese sources said.

Shiki emphasized that the 20 percent market share is a target and not a guarantee.

Sales of imported semiconductors began to level off in the latter half of last year because production in the computer and industrial machinery sectors, where demand for foreign chips was strong, declined because of the economic slowdown, he said.

He added, however, that production in the automotive industry, where the foreign share was low, increased.

Shiki said joint U.S.-Japanese development of semiconductors proved to be ineffective in some areas where new products were introduced.

Firms React to U.S. Review of Microchip Pact

OW2805064492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0607 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 28 KYODO—Japanese microchip manufacturers Thursday responded coolly to a U.S. decision to review the 1991 semiconductor accord between Japan and the United States.

"A 20-percent foreign share in the Japanese market is not any pledge but an expected figure," Moriya Shiki, chairman of the Electronic Industries Association of Japan, said.

The five-year Japan-U.S. semiconductor trade pact includes a provision that foreign makers of microchips can expect a 20 percent market share in Japan by the end of this year.

But the U.S. makers' market share remains at around 14 percent according to U.S. figures, or 16 percent on Japanese estimates.

A spokesman for NEC Corp., asked about the U.S. decision, said the Japanese electronic company will continue to make efforts to help the foreign share of Japan's market by increasing imports.

U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills announced Wednesday that the Bush administration is launching a review of the bilateral chip pact, saying, "we are extremely troubled by the lack of progress in improving access to the Japanese market for foreign semiconductors."

An official at another major Japanese electric maker commented, "there is nothing we can do," citing the country's current economic slowdown.

Meanwhile, Yuji Tanahashi, vice minister of international trade and industry, said Japan is not breaking its agreement with the U.S. on microchip trade.

"Japan is making efforts to increase imports (of foreign-made microchips) at both public and private levels," he said.

Referring to a Japanese estimation of foreign share in Japan's microchip market at 16.1 percent, Tanahashi said the figure represents an improvement, suggesting imports are increasing.

Steelmakers Appeal to U.S. Officials on Dumping

OW2705130292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1222 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO—A Japanese steel industry association Wednesday said it has sent a letter to the U.S. Government asking it to stop American steelmakers from filing a lawsuit against foreign steel exporters for alleged dumping of steel sheets and other products.

It is the first letter addressed directly to the U.S. Government by the Japan Iron and Steel Federation, its officials said.

According to the officials, the federation said in the letter that Japan's steel exports to the United States amounted to only 2.8 million tons per year in 1991, a sharp decline from the 6.6 million tons in 1984.

The Japanese makers are shipping products, most of which their U.S. counterparts are not able to supply, it said.

The industry group said Japanese would doubt the seriousness of the U.S. steel industry to maintain fair and free trade if they actually file a suit.

Stressing that Japanese steelmakers have actively cooperated with the U.S. steel industry in both finance and technology, it urged U.S. officials to stop the lawsuit.

The federation sent the letter to U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, Commerce Secretary Barbara Franklin, and presidential advisor Clayton Yeutter.

JAMA Says Car Exports Decline From Year Ago

OW2805080192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0654 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 28 KYODO—Japan's April car exports declined 2.0 percent from a year earlier to 445,306 vehicles, for the first drop since December, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association [JAMA] reported Thursday.

The year-on-year decline is attributable mainly to lower shipments to the United States and the European Community (EC), the association said.

By region, exports to North America fell 10.7 percent to 110,639 vehicles, while those to the 12-nation EC declined 10.9 percent to 115,836 vehicles, it said.

Exports to the North American market dropped from the year-before level for the fourth straight month.

In contrast, exports to the Middle East expanded 83.7 percent to 39,728 vehicles, supported mainly by a 60.4 percent climb in shipments to Saudi Arabia.

Shipments to Latin America increased 34.9 percent to 29,801 vehicles, the association said.

Sakata Comments on U.S. Plutonium Shipping Bill

OW2805074792 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 28 May 92

[From the "NHK News" Program]

[Text] The U.S. House of Representatives' plenary session passed with overwhelming majority vote on 27 May the National Comprehensive Energy Policy Bill incorporating the provision prohibiting transport ships delivering plutonium from Europe to Japan from calling at U.S. ports under the present situation.

As a revision clause newly incorporated into the bill, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission [NRC] will inspect the receptacles containing plutonium and refuse its entry into U.S. territorial waters and ports, even in times of emergency, unless the security aspect is approved.

The National Comprehensive Energy Policy Bill was passed on 27 May at the plenary session of the House of Representatives under overwhelming majority, with 381 members voting for the bill and 37 members voting against.

The Japanese Government plans to import one ton of plutonium from France by sea over a period of seven weeks this year. And, if the bill is adopted as it stands, there are misgivings that current transportation plans will be affected.

However, as there is no provision in the bill that has already been passed by the Senate to the effect that ships carrying plutonium are prohibited from entering U.S. ports, the handling of this provision will be decided at a meeting between represetatives of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

In this connection, Nuclear Fuel Division Chief Touichi Sakata of the Science and Technology Agency said that even if the bill was passed as it stood, there was no thinking that the plutonium transportation plan would be immediately affected, because plutonium would not be transported through U.S. territorial waters or call at U.S. ports.

In conclusion, he emphasized that Japan was taking a comparatively cool attitude with respect to the bill.

Ministry, U.S. To Cooperate on Road Technology

OW2705122692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1100 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO—Japan's Construction Ministry and the Federal Highway Administration of the United States will conclude an arrangement Friday to allow cooperation on road technology development, government officials said Wednesday.

The arrangement is based on an existing Japan-U.S. scientific technique cooperation pact, the officials said.

Under the arrangement, the two nations will cooperate in fields such as traffic safety and seismological engineering and will work together on data base studies, publishing, exchanges, and joint studies by experts, they said.

The arrangement will help Japan improve its road technology including road paving and bridge design, since the U.S. has many types of software to offer in the exchange, the officials said.

Current U.S. studies include work on traffic accident prevention through road-to-car alarm systems and automatic driving systems for highways, they said.

The Federal Highway Administration is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Japanese-NAFTA Consultative Forum Urged

OW2705001492 Tokyo KYODO in English 2309 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO—Japan and the three members of the prospective North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) should establish a forum for multilateral dialogue, according to a report submitted Tuesday to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

The report was given to Miyazawa by Nobuo Matsunaga, a former ambassador to the U.S. and Mexico, on behalf of the Japan-Mexico Commission for the 21st Century. It was also submitted to Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

The commission was inaugurated in April 1991 as a forum for private and public sector leaders of the two countries to consult on future bilateral relations.

Addressing Japan's concerns about being left out of NAFTA and the tripartite grouping's potential to become an economic bloc, the report urged Japan, Mexico, the U.S., and Canada to "establish a North Pacific Economic Forum as a place where multilateral dialogue could be conducted by representatives of the private and public sectors."

"This type of joint effort could not only be profitable for the member countries, but could also contribute to the maintenance of a free trade regime and the steady development of the world economy as a whole," it said.

A senior Foreign Ministry source said both Japan and Mexico support the recommendation, adding that Japan plans to pose it to the U.S. and Canada after they and Mexico conclude their negotiations on regional economic integration and sign a final NAFTA greement.

"If they were to go ahead and implement their own ideas without coordinating them with Japan, NAFTA could become an economic bloc discriminatory to Japan and other countries," the source said. "So we need consultations with them."

In an apparent trade-off, the report also expressed support for Mexico's quest for an expanded economic presence in the dynamic Pacific basin region, including membership in the Asia-Pacific Economic Conference (APEC).

It said the proposed Japan-NAFTA forum would also have implications for Mexico in terms of development of its economic relations with Asia-Pacific countries.

"In view of the possibility that business opportunities for Mexico in this region could increase, its relations with Japan would be crucial for attaining maximum benefits in future commercial endeavors," it said.

The report contained 32 "specific recommendations," including the establishment in Japan by Mexico of a center for promotion of trade, investment, tourism, and technology transfer.

Another was the establishment in Mexico City of a "Pacific Trade Center" with office space and halls for Japanese, other Asian, and Mexican firms.

The report said Japan should increase its cooperation through financing and technical training to contribute to solving the pollution problems in Mexico, especially the acute air pollution in Mexico City.

It suggested that Japan cooperate with Mexico in setting up an institute for research and training on environmental issues in Mexico City which would be open to specialists and researchers from all Latin American countries.

Watanabe Supports Estonia on Pullout of Troops

OW2705042792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0406 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO—Japan "basically supports" Estonia's calls for a faster pullout of troops of the former Soviet Union, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Wednesday.

Ministry officials said Watanabe expressed the view in a meeting with Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi, who replied that Estonia "totally supports" Japan's call for the return of four Russian-occupied islands seized at the end of World War II.

They quoted Vahi as saying that the continued presence of some 25,000 Russian troops on Estonian soil is "the basic root of instability in the domestic political situation."

Watanabe called the issue "a very important one" and said Japan "basically supports Estonia's position on this matter." He then solicited Estonian support for Japan in its territorial dispute with Russia.

Last Friday, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev reportedly said the schedule for a pullout of the over 100,000 former Soviet troops from the three Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania could be accelerated if the three states were to provide funds in convertible currency or aid in housing and barracks construction to accommodate officers and conscripts.

Estonia wants a total withdrawal by the end of this year, while Russia says all the troops will be out by the end of 1997.

Vahi, who is the second-highest official in Estonia after President Arnold Ruutel, arrived in Japan on Sunday on a four-day visit, the first visit to Japan by an Estonian leader.

Vahi repeated a call he made in talks Tuesday with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa for Japanese investment in Estonia.

He also suggested a bilateral investment protection agreement.

He said the liberalization of the Estonian economy is making it attractive for foreign investment, and that so far some 1,600 joint ventures have been set up using foreign capital.

Watanabe replied that Japan wants to monitor how bilateral economic ties develop before considering an investment protection pact, saying there is no record of Japanese investment in Estonia.

He said Estonia should appeal to the Japanese private sector for investment, and said a good opportunity to do so will be when the powerful Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) dispatches a mission to Estonia in September.

Vahi called for official financial assistance as well as help in the medical field, an apparent reference to shortages of medical equipment and pharmaceuticals.

Watanabe said Japan will invite seven Estonians to Japan for technical training this fiscal year, which began in April, as well as one Estonian diplomat for Japanese language training.

He said that from June, Japan's Embassy in Finland will assume responsibilities for diplomatic dealings with Estonia, now covered by its embassy in Moscow. Next January, Japan will set up a diplomatic liaison office in the Estonian capital, staffed by one diplomat.

Japan established ties with the three Baltic states last October.

C. Itoh To Import Natural Gas From Russia

OW2705061892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0544 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO—Major Japanese trading company C. Itoh and Co. will import 100,000 tons of gas condensate, worth about 10 million U.S. dollars, from Russia, company officials said Wednesday.

Gas condensate is a raw material used for production of gasoline and petrochemical products.

They said the supplier is Urengoy Gasprom, a state-run enterprise in Urengoy, western Siberia, the world's largest production center for natural gas.

Gasprom will use the money to buy computers and production equipment in Japan. A "shopping list" will be worked out between C. Itoh officials and representatives of Gasprom, who are scheduled to arrive in Tokyo on June 1, the officials said.

Urengoy produces about 24 billion cubic meters of natural gas monthly, accounting for 40 percent of Russia's total output of natural gas.

The imported gas will be transported by rail through the Soviet far east for shipment to Japan aboard natural gas tankers, they said.

Companies Plan Hokkaido-Sakhalin Ferry Route

OW2805085392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0810 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Sapporo, May 28 KYODO—Japan's six shipping companies said Thursday they plan to try operating a medium-sized passenger ferry service connecting Otaru, Hokkaido, northern Japan, and Korsakov on Sakhalin Island in eastern Russia.

The 6,300 ton-class ferry will leave Otaru on August 25 bound for Korsakov on a voyage lasting between five and seven days, said an official at Navix Line Ltd., one of the six shipping companies.

The operation will be launched after Sakhalin Shipping Co. and Far East Shipping Co. formally respond to a proposal for the pilot navigation route, which will pave the way for a regular ferry route between the maritime province of Siberia and coastal cities of Japan, the official said.

Under the plan, passenger ferries will connect the Japanese seaports of Otaru and Niigata with Korsakov and Vladivostok in Russia, according to the official.

First PRC-Russia-Japan Shipping Route Planned

OW2705121692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1112 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Yamagata, May 27 KYODO—A delegation representing the Japanese port city of Sakata left for Beijing on Wednesday to conclude an agreement opening the first direct shipping route between Japan and China through the Russian Far East, city officials said.

The officials said the new service will link Harbin, capital of Heilongjiang Province in northeast China, with Sakata, Yamagata Prefecture, via the Siberian cities of Khabarovsk and Nikolayevsk- Na-Amure.

The 2,900-kilometer route will make use of the Sungari River from Harbin to Jiamusi in Heilongjiang, the Ussuri (Wusuli) River from Jiamusi to Khabarovsk, and then the Amur River to Nikolayevsk-Na-Amure where the Amur flows into the strait between Siberia and Sakhalin Island. Ships will then proceed to Sakata through the Sea of Japan.

It will take about eight days to complete the voyage, the officials said.

They said the Sakata mission will attend a ceremony marking the signing of the contract scheduled for Friday.

The first liner is scheduled to arrive in Sakata in early August with a cargo of about 6,000 tons of corn imported by Hirata Ranch in Sakata, they said.

PRC's Wan Li on Friendly Sino-Japanese Ties

OW2705061792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0539 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO—Visiting Chinese parliamentary leader Wan Li expressed confidence Wednesday that friendly relationships between China and Japan can be maintained.

"We have been friends over the past 2,000 years," the chairman of China's National People's Congress, said at a reception for him hosted by a Japanese private organization to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the normalization of bilateral relations.

Wan arrived in Tokyo on Monday for an eight-day official visit as part of a series of exchanges scheduled this year between Japanese and Chinese leaders.

PRC Provincial Trade Delegation Visits Okinawa

OW2705083792 Naha NHK Television in Japanese 0315 GMT 27 May 92

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] The delegation of China's Guangdong Provincial Committee for the Promotion of International Trade, which is currently visiting Okinawa, paid a courtesy call on Okinawa prefectural government officials today. In Guangdong Province, the economy is rapidly growing.

The delegation, led by Ka Shoki [name as heard], consists of seven members of the Guangdong Chapter of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, which is equivalent to Japan's JETRO [Japan External Trade Organization].

At the meeting with Okinawa Vice Governor Hiroko Sho, Mr. Ka said that this was the first time a Guangdong delegation had visited Okinawa.

He said China had been promoting its open-door policy and its economy had expanded greatly, indicating rapid development of Chinese industries.

Guangdong Province has a population of 60 million, covers an area of 180,000 square kilometers, and is a resource-rich province, Mr. Ka explained. He said the delegation was visiting Okinawa to study the possiblity of promoting cooperation with Japanese economic circles, and was calling for economic exchanges between Okinawa and Guangdong Province.

In response, Vice Governor Sho said that Okinawa had historically had many connections with China.

The delegation's visit to Okinawa is very significant because Okinawa is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its reversion to Japan, and Japan and China are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the normalized relations this year, the vice governor said.

She then agreed to promote mutual exchanges in the 21st century.

Tokyo To Be Invited To Attend CSCE Meetings

OW2805043992 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 27 May 92

[From the "NHK News" Program]

[Text] It has been learned that the EC wants Japan to attend the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe [CSCE]—the organization discussing the framework of security for post-cold war Europe—as a special guest.

The CSCE is becoming an arena for discussions on common questions of security of East and West Europe, and the Japanese Government thinks that the CSCE has come to play an important role in forming an international order of the post-Cold War world. As such, the government wants to participate in it in one form or another.

At present, the CSCE is having working-level negotiations on the question of how to accommodate requests for participation by nations outside the EC, with the hope of having the issue finalized at the Helsinki summit in July.

It was learned today that EC member nations which are influential members of the CSCE want Japan to participate in it as a special guest.

The participation as a special guest as wanted by the EC means that Japan will participate in the Foreign Ministers' Council meetings as well as the summit talks along with regular member nations, and that Japan will have the right to a voice but not the right to a vote.

Regarding this, the Japanese Government is recognizing with appreciation that the EC is taking into consideration Japan's position, but is concerned about the fact that the EC retains the right to decide whether to invite Japan or not, every time a meeting is scheduled.

The government wants to further adjust views with the EC, with the CSCE summit set for July.

Firms Encouraged To Review Business Practices

OW2705074792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0652 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO—The head of Japan's most powerful business group Wednesday urged corporations to move away from traditional practices such as competition for market share and "company-comes-first" behavior so as to do business in harmony with foreign competitors.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), said in a speech to Keidanren's annual meeting that innovation in business management is needed now that Japanese business practices are under fire from foreign companies as erecting barriers to fair competition.

Hiraiwa singled out the company-comes-first business attitude as an impediment to reducing working hours, stressing that enterprises now should take a consumer-comes-first approach to their business.

Japan should also play a leadership role in environmental problems to make a success of the earth summit to be held in Rio de Janeiro in early June, he said.

In wrapping up the day's meeting, executives of major companies belonging to Keidanren adopted a resolution calling on the government to adopt fiscal and monetary policies to revitalize the slowing economy and to proceed decisively with political reforms.

The meeting also approved the appointments of five new vice chairmen of Keidanren, bringing the number of vice chairmen to 12.

The newly appointed vice chairmen are Yutaka Kume, president of Nissan Motor Co., Seiji Suzuki, chairman of Mitsubishi Kasei Corp., Isao Yonekura, chairman of C. Itoh and Co., Katsushige Mita, chairman of Hitachi Ltd., and Tadahiro Sekimoto, president of NEC Corp.

Watanabe Pledges 2.3 Billion Yen for Mongolia

OW2805023692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0119 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 28 KYODO—An international conference on aid to Mongolia opened in Tokyo on Thursday with Japan pledging an initial 2.3 billion yen in bilateral grants to soften the landlocked country's transformation to democracy and a market economy.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe announced the aid package to representatives of 17 countries and five international organizations attending the two-day Mongolia assistance group meeting.

He urged the gathering of aid donors to "state as much support as possible" for Mongolia, saying it is "reaching a crucial point" in its economic reforms.

He said Mongolia's reform efforts since the first such conference in Tokyo last September, in which 155 million dollars was pledged, "demonstrate clearly that it has responded positively to the expectations and support of the international community."

In a ceremony just before the start of the meeting, Watanabe and Mongolian Trade and Industry Minister Sed-Ochiryn Bayarbaatar exchanged diplomatic notes to formalize the new Japanese aid pledge.

The ceremony took place in the presence of Mongolian Prime Minister Dashiyn Byambasuren, who arrived in Japan on Wednesday accompanied by Bayarbaatar and first Deputy Prime Minister Ganbold Dabaadorjiyn.

The grant package, worth 17.5 million dollars, consists of 2 billion yen in balance-of-payments support funds, some 200 million yen worth of wheat to be procured from neighboring China, and some 150 million yen worth of fertilizers and farming equipment to help Mongolia increase its food production.

Japan is expected to pledge at least 32.5 million dollars in additional aid for Mongolia during the course of the conference, mostly in commodity loans.

Vice Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada indicated last month that Japan would extend more than the 50 million dollars in bilateral and multilateral aid it pledged at the September conference.

The Japanese package then consisted of 15 million dollars in grants and 35 million dollars in commodity loans.

Watanabe said that while the previously provided international aid had helped tide Mongolia over the winter, "the serious shortage of commodities such as fuels, foodstuffs, and medicines...is having a profound effect on life in Mongolia."

"The country's economic reforms, therefore, are reaching a crucial point," he said.

Byambasuren is reportedly planning to appeal at the Tokyo conference for 75.6 million dollars in multilateral aid to buy emergency commodities such as oil this year.

The meeting, which is being held under the cochairmanship of Japan and the World Bank, is being participated in by 13 donor countries, including the United States, Germany, Britain, and France.

The four donor organizations represented are the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Asian Development Bank, and the United Nations Development Program.

Russia, which as the successor state to the Soviet Union was Mongolia's major suppler of aid and fuel when both were under communist governments, is an observer.

Japanese organizers said the meeting will study short-term assistance to Mongolia to meet its balance-of-payments requirements this year and discuss medium- and long-term support for its efforts at economic structural reform and economic development.

Earlier this month, officials of the Asian Development Bank indicated they would likely announce at the meeting up to 35 million dollars in quick-disbursement loans to Mongolia. The bank extended a total of 33.8 million dollars to Mongolia in 1991.

But Mongolia has said it needs more money from the bank to promote profitable enterprises and increase exports. It is particularly keen to use the funds to create infrastructure to develop its coal and copper mining industries.

Mongolian Premier Seeks Further Aid for Reforms

OW2805092792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0859 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 28 KYODO—A conference on aid to Mongolia opened here Thursday with a plea from Mongolian Prime Minister Dashiyn Byambasuren for generous assistance in 1992 and beyond to quicken democratic reforms.

Byambasuren's call followed Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe's announcement that Japan has agreed to provide an initial 2.3 billion yen in bilateral grants to help soften the central Asian country's transformation to democracy and a market economy.

Watanabe and Byambasuren spoke to representatives of 17 countries and five international organizations attending the two-day 2nd Mongolia Assistance Group meeting.

Watanabe urged the potential donors to support Mongolia as much as possible, saying it is reaching a crucial point in its economic reforms.

He said that while the 155 million dollars collected at the September conference in Tokyo helped Mongolia through the winter, "the serious shortage of commodities such as fuels, foodstuffs, and medicines...is having a profound effect on life in Mongolia."

World Bank representative Shahid Javed Burki explained that the goals of the current meeting are to secure additional short-term resources to cover Mongolia's financial gap for the remainder of 1992 and to mobilize resources needed for 1993. The bank estimates Mongolia's 1992 financial gap at 75 million dollars.

Burki recommended that while the resources needed for 1992 should be in the form of quick disbursement balance of payments assistance or contributions in kind, external financing for 1993 and beyond should progressively shift to mid-term project aid.

In a ceremony just before the start of the meeting, Watanabe and Mongolian Trade and Industry Minister Sed-Ochiryn Bayarbaatar exchanged diplomatic notes to implement the new Japanese short-term aid package.

The 2.3 billion yen (17.5 million dollar) package consisted primarily of balance of payments support funds, with other grants for wheat purchases from China and for fertilizers and farming equipment to boost food production.

Japan is expected to pledge significantly more aid to Mongolia during the course of the conference, most of it consisting of longer-term project loans.

Last September, Japan extended 61 million dollars in short-term aid for Mongolia, including 35 million in commodity loans to meet urgent import needs, with the remaining portion in grants.

Byambasuren, who is reportedly planning to appeal for 75.6 million dollars in short-term aid, expressed optimism in his address that the meeting would "be crowned with every success."

He predicted the Mongolian economy could stabilize somewhere around the close of 1992. He also agreed that while emergency aid is still needed, the focus of international assistance should shift to medium-term projects in 1993.

Byambasuren estimated his country faces a shortfall of 160 million dollars in meeting its minimum import needs for the rest of 1992, which he calculated at 517 million dollars.

The Mongolian premier expressed hope that the deficit could be compensated by what remains of loans and grants pledged last September and by emergency assistance to be pledged for the remainder of 1992.

Outlining priorities for utilization of the aid, Byambasuren said the short-term assistance pledged for 1992 would be used primarily to surmount difficulties in food supply and production.

He said it would also be used to prepare the fuel and energy sectors for the winter season and to facilitate operations of export-oriented industries, as well as those producing essential goods for domestic consumption.

Longer-term assistance would be focused primarily on stabilizing the fuel and energy sector, but also on boosting food supplies and production of export commodities, he said.

Byambasuren also stressed the need to rehabilitate outdated machineries and equipment in the agricultural and transport sectors.

Tokyo Offers $67 Million in Assistance to Mongolia

OW2805132192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1212 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 28 (KYODO)—Japan on Thursday offered some 67 million dollars in loans and grants to Mongolia to help along its transformation to democracy and a market economy, officials said.

Japan made the offer as a two-day international conference on aid to Mongolia opened in Tokyo.

Mongolian Prime Minister Dashiyn Byambasuren told donor countries that Mongolia is in need of their generous support while undergoing its renewal and transformation.

Japanese officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Japan would extend 50 million dollars in loans to finance projects in such fields as transportation, communications, and energy starting next year.

At the start of the conference, Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe announced Japan's promise to provide Mongolia with grants of up to 2.3 billion yen (17.5 million dollars) to help cover its balance of payments deficit and address its food needs through the end of 1992.

Representatives of 17 countries and five international organizations are attending the Second Mongolia Assistance Group meeting, which is being held under the cochairmanship of Japan and the World Bank.

Watanabe, meanwhile, urged the potential donors to support the former communist nation as much as possible.

September's conference in Tokyo yielded 155 million dollars for Mongolia to help it through the winter. Of the total, Japan provided 61 million dollars in commodity loans and grants.

This year's conference is expected to yield considerably more as it covers not only short-term emergency aid, but project aid over the medium term.

World Bank representatives said the meeting should strive to help Mongolia meet a 75 million dollar financial gap expected by the end of 1992 by providing it with quick disbursement of balance of payments assistance and/or contributions in kind.

They said donors should also mobilize additional resources needed by Mongolia for 1993, consisting mainly of medium-term project aid.

In a ceremony just before the start of the meeting, Watanabe and Mongolian Trade and Industry Minister Sed-ochiryn Bayarbaatar exchanged diplomatic notes to implement the 2.3 billion yen package.

Byambasuren predicted that stabilization of the Mongolian economy could come as early as the close of 1992.

He agreed that while emergency aid is still needed, the focus of international assistance should shift to medium-term projects from 1993.

Byambasuren estimated his country faces a shortfall of 160 million dollars in meeting its minimum import needs for the rest of 1992, which he said would amount to 517 million dollars.

The premier expressed hope the deficit could be compensated by what remains of loans and grants pledged in September and by the short-term assistance to be pledged at the conference for the remainder of 1992.

Outlining priorities for utilization of the aid, Byambasuren said the short-term assistance pledged for 1992 would be used primarily to surmount difficulties in food supply and production.

He said it would also be used to prepare the fuel and energy sectors for the winter season and to facilitate operations of export-oriented industries, as well as those producing essential goods for domestic consumption.

Longer-term assistance would be focused primarily on stabilizing the fuel and energy sector, but also on boosting food supplies and production of export commodities, he said.

Byambasuren also stressed the need to rehabilitate outdated machinery and equipment in the agricultural and transport sectors.

Thirteen donor countries are attending the meeting. Among them are the United States, Germany, Britain, France, Italy, South Korea, and Australia.

The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations Development Program are also participating as donors.

Russia, which under the Soviet Government was Mongolia's major supplier of aid and fuel, is seated as an observer, as are China and the European Community.

Saudi Minister Opposes Oil 'Environmental Tax'

OW2605035292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0310 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Saudi Arabian Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-'Attar told Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Tuesday that he opposes the European Community's proposed environmental tax on imported oil which he said it would disrupt energy planning in his country.

Saudi Arabia is the second-largest supply source of crude oil for Japan after the United Arab Emirates.

Miyazawa replied that Japan appreciates Saudi Arabia's leadership in maintaining stable oil prices, but avoided comment on the energy tax, a Foreign Ministry official said in a briefing to reporters.

The Finance Ministry is studying tax schemes to help reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, an idea opposed by Japanese industrialists.

According to the European Community (EC) proposal, a 3 dollar per barrel levy on imported oil would be introduced starting in 1993, and would be increased to 10 dollars per barrel by 2000.

The EC tax is contingent on the introduction of similar taxes by other industrialized countries.

In the 25-minute meeting, Miyazawa and Al-'Attar agreed to strengthen bilateral relations, and welcomed Japan's investment in Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi planning minister is among about 25 officials in Tokyo to attend the two-day sixth Japan-Saudi Arabia joint committee on economic and technological cooperation, which ends Tuesday.

Saudi Talks End Without Tokyo Tax Commitment

OW2605131292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1211 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Japan and Saudi Arabia ended two days of high-level talks Tuesday after reaching agreement on a number of cooperative projects but without a Japanese commitment to oppose proposals for environmental taxes on imported oil.

Foreign Ministry officials said the Japan-Saudi Arabia joint committee meeting concluded with positive appraisals of its contribution to closer bilateral ties from Minister of International Trade and Industry Kozo Watanabe, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, and Saudi Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-'Attar.

In the meeting, Japan and Saudi Arabia agreed to cooperate in using a satellite to hunt for oil resources and to exchange technical expertise in nonoil projects, the official said.

They said Japan further agreed to promote direct investment in Saudi Arabia and to set up a Japan External Trade Organization office in Riyadh toward that end.

Al-'Attar indirectly called on Japan at the start of Monday's meeting and in discussions Tuesday with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to oppose environmental taxes on imported oil, asking for Japan's "understanding and cooperation."

The officials said al-'Attar predicted that such taxes would lead to an escalation of world oil prices to the detriment of both industrialized and developing countries, adding the green tax is not a proper way to solve global environmental problems.

The officials said the working-level Japanese and Saudi delegations agreed that information on potential oil fields obtained from a Japanese satellite already in orbit would be supplied to the Saudis.

They also discussed the next stage of technical cooperation for a joint methanol project which is to be similarly financed. Negotiations on the financing stage are nearing a conclusion, officials said.

The officials said the Saudis suggested bilateral cooperation in such areas as standards, quality control, medical matters, pharmaceutical projects, technical education in various industrial fields, computer science, maritime transportation, and international telecommunicatons.

Japan gets some 77 per cent of its crude oil from the Middle East. Saudi Arabia is its second largest supplier after the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The committee met for the sixth time since it was established [passage indistinct].

Burmese Dissidents Rally in Tokyo for Suu Kyi

OW2705070092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0623 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO—Myanmar [Burmese] dissidents at a rally in Tokyo called on Myanmar's military junta Wednesday to immediately release all political prisoners, including Nobel peace prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

In a march past the Myanmar Embassy, some 100 Myanmar dissidents and Japanese and other civil rights activists chanted slogans denouncing the military dictatorship and calling on the junta to immediately and unconditionally set free Suu Kyi and all dissidents held against their will for their beliefs.

"National elections were held two years ago today but the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) has still not transferred power to the National League for Democracy (NLD)," said Win Naing, president of the Burmese Association.

"Anything short of a power transfer to the NLD will not do," he said.

The NLD won an overwhelming majority in the May 27, 1990 elections, but since then, many of its elected members and activists have been imprisoned by the junta.

Dissident leader Nwe Aung, representing Myanmar exiles in the European Community, said similar demonstrations will be held in major cities worldwide Wednesday.

Tun Aye, representing dissidents in Japan, said the national convention promised by the SLORC, which has reportedly stopped its war on ethnic groups near the Thai border and released some dissidents recently, was a move to trick the international community into believing that the junta was acting in good faith and would restore democracy.

Also taking part were representatives from the International Women's Network for Freedom of Aung San Suu Kyi, the international network of engaged Buddhists, and the group concerned with Burmese issues.

The rally closed with a prayer offered by a Buddhist priest for those who died struggling for democracy and human rights in Myanmar, formerly Burma.

Kubota Plans Technology Transfer to SRV Farms

OW2705030992 Tokyo KYODO in English 2350 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO—A major maker of industrial machinery and farm equipment, Kubota Corp., is to transfer agriculture-related technology to Vietnam, a Japanese industrial daily reported Wednesday.

The scheme will also feature construction of model farms and farm equipment rental centers, the NIHON KOGYO SHIMBUN said.

It is to be jointly financed by the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship, a foundation backed by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry that encourages technological transfer.

Kubota is also planning to hold a seminar in Vietnam in early June on Japanese farming methods, and expects about 40 Vietnamese farmers to attend.

The company expects that the planned assistance will lead to Japanese farming methods being adopted in Vietnam, and that this will in turn boost demand for its farm equipment.

Tokyo To Extend Cambodia 500 Million-Yen Grant

OW2805055692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0533 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 28 KYODO—Japan will give Cambodia a 500 million yen grant to help increase food production in the war-devastated country, government officials said Thursday.

Japanese Ambassador Yukio Imagawa and Prince Norodom Sihianouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council, exchanged a note on the aid in Phnom Penh on Thursday, the officials said.

They said the aid will be used to purchase fertilizers, agricultural chemicals, and farming machines.

SDPJ's Tanabe Shows Flexibility on PKO Bill

OW2505143492 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 25 May 92

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] In connection with the deliberations of the PKO [peacekeeping operations] bill at the Diet, Chairman Tanabe of the main opposition Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] today told a party symposium:

[Begin recording] [Tanabe] Our party has been trying hard to get other parties to listen to our views in the House of Councillors. I mean that our party will continue this effort through 21 June. Our party intends to deal fully with the PKO bill in the course of deliberating the bill at the Diet. I am not a rigid man, but a flexible man. [end recording].

These remarks by Chairman Tanabe represent his posture to take the offensive by demanding thorough deliberations of the PKO bill at the Diet, and to look for a meeting point with other parties on the bill by proposing at the final phase of the deliberations on the bill that Japan's participation in the PKO be confined to Cambodia.

LDP Seeks End of Peacekeeping Bill Debate

OW2705144292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1350 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) proposed Wednesday to opposition parties that Diet deliberations be concluded next week over a controversial bill to send peacekeeping troops abroad, party officials said.

The LDP made the proposal to Japan's five opposition parties at a meeting of directors of the House of Councillors' special committee, the officials said.

Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) supported the proposal, while the Social Democratic Party (SDP), the Japanese Communist Party (JCP), and Rengo Sangiin rejected it.

The LDP and the five opposition parties will reconvene another meeting of the committee's directors Thursday in an attempt to patch up their differences, the officials said.

Separate meetings between Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in his capacity as LDP president and opposition party leaders are also scheduled Thursday over the peacekeeping bill, they said.

In addition, the LDP, SDP, DSP and Komeito will hold a meeting of secretaries general Friday. A meeting of the same officials, without the SDP, will be held later to discuss Diet strategy.

The DSP and LDP restored relations Wednesday as LDP Vice President Shin Kanemaru told reporters he was sorry he upset DSP Chairman Keigo Ouchi with his earlier remarks about a possible dissolution of the lower house.

Kanemaru said the LDP wants to cooperate with the DSP and Komeito to get the bill passed in the opposition-dominated upper house.

On Tuesday, Ouchi said the DSP may not support the bill as Kanemaru reportedly said the LDP had asked Miyazawa to dissolve the lower house if the DSP did not change its demand for prior Diet approval of dispatching Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel abroad for UN peacekeeping operations.

The bill is pending in the upper house after being passed through the House of Representatives last December. It must be approved by both chambers of the Diet to become law.

LDP officials said the upper house special panel has so far spent 76 hours on the matter, exceeding the discussion time of a similar lower house panel.

The officials added public hearings on the bill in Osaka and Niigata will end Thursday.

SDP Chairman Makoto Tanabe told a party leadership meeting Wednesday he will ask SDP upper house members to walk slowly during the vote and employ other physical tactics to block the bill.

Tanabe was quoted as saying the SDP will demand thorough Diet deliberation from the LDP, which he said will make it essential to amend the bill.

SDP Diet Affairs Committee Chairman Manso Hamamoto was quoted as telling party members their leaders want to delay the vote until the current regular session ends on June 21, so the parliament will have no choice but to scrap the bill.

The SDP says sending SDF personnel on United Nations missions would violate the war-renouncing Constitution.

SDP Willing To Debate Voting Reapportionment

OW2805091192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0831 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 28 KYODO—Social Democratic Party (SDP) Chairman Makoto Tanabe told Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa Thursday he is prepared to debate a tentative ruling party plan to redress the difference in the weight of votes among constituencies caused by migration to urban areas.

Tanabe, meeting with Miyazawa at his official residence, called for the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to clarify its proposal and officially introduce it soon to allow sufficient time for Diet debate, an SDP official said.

Miyazawa favors a plan that would add nine seats for more populous constituencies for members of the House of Representatives, and eliminate 10 seats in other areas to reduce the maximum vote imbalance to 2.27 to 1 from the present 3.34 to 1.

The premier hopes to submit a bill to the current Diet session for debate before its adjourns on June 21.

Recently, however, he has run into opposition from LDP lawmakers who fear the plan will harm their re-election chances.

The measure has been depicted as a stop-gap move to avoid unconstitutional elections through 1995.

The Supreme Court has ruled that disparity in the value of votes of more than 3-1 is unconstitutional.

Miyazawa has pledged to unveil a comprehensive political reform program aimed at reducing the cost of campaigning and redressing the vote disparity by November.

The two party leaders remained wide apart on the government's bill allowing defense personnel to serve in United Nations peacekeeping activities, the official said.

In reply to Miyazawa's request that the SDP not block its passage, Tanabe said that he hoped to see the legislation revised, the official said.

The SDP objects to the overseas dispatch of the Self-Defense Forces.

The LDP has a tentative coalition with Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party that could pass the bill in the opposition-dominated House of Councillors.

The two middle-of-the road parties, however, are wary of supporting the bill before the House of Councillor's elections in July if the SDP expresses strong opposition.

The bill was approved by the House of Representatives last December.

New-Japan Party Unveils Four Candidates for Jul

OW2705144492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1321 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO—Morihiro Hosokawa, leader of the newly formed New-Japan Party, unveiled Wednesday his first list of candidates for the House of Councillors election in July.

Candidates on the list are Kunitaro Takeda, 80, head of his own research institute on agriculture; Keizo Kojima, 75, economic affairs commentator; Yoshio Terasawa, 60, former vice president of Nomura Securities Co.; and Kazuyuki Yamaguchi, 45, chief of a civic group based in Fukushima Prefecture, northeastern Japan.

Hosokawa told a news conference that the candidate selection mirrors the party's agriculture-oriented policy which also covers environmental issues.

The former Kumamoto Prefecture governor also said the party will announce other candidates on several future occasions and will ultimately place about 15 candidates on the official ticket.

Regarding whether he would run for his own upper chamber seat, Hosokawa only said that he does not rule out any possibility.

In a surprise move earlier this month, Hosokawa announced that he would form a new political party and field candidates in the upcoming contest.

The 54-year-old journalist-turned politician served two consecutive four-year terms as governor of Kumamoto Prefecture in western Japan beginning in February 1983 after holding an upper house seat for 12 years from July 1973.

He did not seek a third term as prefectural governor when his second term expired in February 1991.

A top government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the new party will not create a sensation because no one will follow relatively aged contenders in the July election.

"I wonder what (Hosokawa) was thinking (when he made the selection), since the first batch of candidates is crucial in creating the image of the New-Japan Party," the official said.

LDP Panel Urges Supplementary Budget in Autumn

OW2705074592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0655 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO—A key policy-making panel within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) agreed Wednesday to call for a large-scale supplementary budget in this autumn to help boost the slowing economy, party officials said.

The LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council recommended a supplementary budget of 3 trillion to 5 trillion yen for fiscal 1992, ending March 31 next year.

Officials said council members consider such a budgetary measure necessary for the government to achieve its 3.5 percent growth target for the year.

The move came against the backdrop of continued weak economic activity at home and growing calls from the United States to adopt a big supplementary budget to help boost domestic demand.

The party officials said details of such a supplementary budget remain subject to talks with the Finance Ministry, but the LDP wants the budget to finance outlays for research facilities at state universities and waste-processing plants.

The issue of how to finance such a budget remains uncertain, however, and strong opposition is expected from the Finance Ministry, which has said there is no need for additional measures to pump up economic activity.

Party sources said the budget could be financed chiefly by issuing bonds to finance public works.

On March 31, the government unveiled a package of pump-priming measures to stimulate the economy, including the front-loading of public works projects.

Official Hints Early Setting of Budget Ceiling

OW2705104492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1007 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO—A top-ranking official of the Ministry of Finance (MOF) suggested Wednesday that MOF will set the "ceiling" on the ministries' appropriation requests for the fiscal 1993 budget by the end of June.

The official, who spoke on condition that he not be identified, said the ceiling should preferably be set by the time Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa leaves Japan to attend the annual economic summit meeting among the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial countries.

The G-7 summit is scheduled in early July in Munich, and Miyazawa is expected to set out for the trip at the end of June.

MOF sets the ceiling each year to put a cap on the ministries' budgetary requests that are filed with MOF in August.

The MOF official also reiterated that no additional fiscal spending is necessary to boost the economy.

Responding to a question about a renewed call Wednesday from the Liberal Democratic Party for a large-scale supplementary budget to provide a thrust to the economy, the official said, "We have already done a lot to stimulate the economy, and we are now watching the effects of the steps taken."

Criticizing the Japanese media for depicting economic conditions as worse than they really are, the official said, "We have no unemployment and no inflation."

"The current slowdown is quite different in nature from ordinary ones," he added.

The bearish mood among the public is to a large extent the result of media coverage of the economy, he said.

Miyazawa Gives Views on Economic Situation

OW2805042892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0401 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 28 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Thursday it is better to decide on whether to adopt additional measures to boost the economy after obtaining data on gross national product (GNP) for the April-June quarter, due out in September.

Miyazawa made the comment at a session of the House of Councillors' finance committee.

There has been growing pressure in Japan and from overseas for the government to take additional fiscal measures to boost the slowing economy.

On March 31, the government unveiled a package of pump-priming measures, including the front-loading of public work projects planned in fiscal 1992.

On other economic issues, Miyazawa dismissed the idea of cutting income taxes as a way to boost domestic demand.

"Given the current fiscal situation, we can't think of it easily," Miyazawa said.

Bill Cleared To Form Securities Watchdog Body

OW2805035392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0306 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 28 KYODO—A key committee of the House of Councillors on Thursday cleared a bill to set up a semi-independent watchdog body to supervise securities trading.

The bill, approved by the upper house's finance committee, is expected to win final approval by the full upper house Friday, paving the way for the Finance Ministry to create the committee in mid-July.

The new committee will have the right to file charges against violators with the public prosecutors and will primarily police stock market violations such as insider trading, stock price manipulation, and loss-compensation payments.

The watchdog body was proposed last year by an advisory panel to the prime minister following disclosure of a series of financial scandals that rocked Japan last summer.

The government is widely expected to appoint a former prosecutor as the head of the new committee.

Steelmakers To Continue Curbing Production

OW2805005592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0019 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 28 KYODO—Japan's steelmakers will continue to curtail production in the July-September period because of a prolonged slump in domestic demand and a delay in reducing inventories, a Japanese economic daily reported Thursday.

The NIKKAN KOGYO SHIMBUN said the continued cutback will likely mean them setting production for the July-September period at about 24.4 million tons, which would be only 200,000 tons to 300,000 tons above the expected production level in the April-June period.

The figures make it likely that production in fiscal 1992 will fall below 100 million tons for the first time in six years.

Faced with the economic slowdown, the steel companies have held down production since October last year.

'Pioneering' CFC Disposal Technique Developed

OW2705175092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1507 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Wednesday it has developed a method for breaking down large amounts of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) harmful to the ozone layer.

The ministry said one of its institutes specializing in research into resources and the environment, within the agency of industrial science and technology, has developed the pioneering technique which uses a reaction furnace, an exhaust gas tower, and a waste water processing tank.

It is the first time a system for breaking down CFCs on a significant scale has been produced and the ministry is considering developing it for commercial application, ministry officials said.

CFCs and water are first mixed in the reaction furnace and heated with a high frequency electric current to about 10,000 degrees centigrade until the electrons are stripped from the atoms to form a plasma.

The resulting chemical reaction gives off fluorine compounds and hydrochloric acid which are then neutralized with sodium hydroxide to produce harmless substances like calcium fluoride (fluorspar), edible salt, and sodium bicarbonate.

The main advantage of the method is that it requires only water and any impurities are broken down in the same way as the CFCs, the officials said.

Until now the maximum amount of CFCs which could be broken down per hour was 0.8 kilograms, but under the new method, by improving on the construction of the reactor furnace and maintaining the water in a vaporized state, the researchers were able to boost the amount to 50 kilograms, they said.

This is equivalent to disposing of the combined volume of CFCs in 280 household refrigerators, the ministry officials said.

The research center developed the process in cooperation with a consortium which includes Tokyo University, Tokyo Electric Power Co., Nippon Steel Corp., and Jeol Ltd. (Nihon Denshi) which is Japan's largest manufacturer of electron microscopes and a member of the Mitsubishi group.

The experiments used CFC 12, but the researchers say they expect to achieve virtually the same results with other CFCs and halons.

Panel Cautious on Carbon Dioxide Emissions Tax

OW2805035492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0301 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 28 KYODO—An advisory body to the head of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry on Thursday issued a report which calls for further careful examination of possible effects of the introduction of a tax on carbon dioxide emissions.

The report, compiled by the subcommittee on the earth environment under the Industrial Structure Council, stresses the need for the harmonization of economic growth, effective energy consumption and environmental protection in tackling global environmental challenges.

The report also asks for acceleration of environmental protection through technological innovation over the long term and for the promotion of international cooperation, making good use of Japan's experience and achievements in overcoming pollution problems.

In discussing financial assistance to developing countries for protection of the environment, the report says that in addition to the strategic distribution of funds and the balancing of technological and personnel assistance, these nations' own efforts are essential, depending on their actual economic situation.

While proposing that developed countries equally share the burden of funding protection of the environment in poor nations, the report says there are no grounds for the figure of 125 billion U.S. dollars per year needed by such nations from 1993 until 2000, as estimated by the secretariat of the upcoming June 3-14 earth summit in Rio de Janeiro.

The report also expresses doubts about the effects of measures to be covered by the money.

According to the report, Japan achieved an average annual 4.9 percent economic growth from 1970 through 1990, while investing some 10 trillion yen in pollution countermeasures.

Making use of its experience, Japan should contribute to the world through positive technological innovations such as the recycling of metals and the synthesis of carbon dioxide into useful chemicals, the report says.

Agency Issues Annual 'White Paper' on Aging

OW2705094692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0924 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO—Japan's sagging birthrate boosted the percentage of elderly people over 65 in 1,165 underpopulated cities, towns, and villages above the 20 percent mark for the first time in the postwar era, the National Land Agency said Wednesday.

Propped up by the domestic emigration of the youth from rural to urban areas and the dwindling birthrate, the percentage of persons over 65 increased to 20.8 percent in the 1,165 autonomous bodies, the agency said in its annual White Paper.

The 1,165 municipalities are designated by law as "depopulated areas," where the population, by definition, plummeted more than 25 percent in the 25 years between the national census in 1960 and the one in 1985.

The 1,165 depopulated localities are scattered in 45 of the nation's 47 prefectures, except for Osaka and Kanagawa prefectures.

These depopulated areas account for 46.4 percent of the total square measurement [passage as received] of the Japanese archipelago, whereas only 6.2 percent of Japan's total population resides in these areas.

Japan's population stood at an estimated 124.04 million as of October 1, 1991.

The percentage of the elderly over 65 at 20.8 percent compares with the national average of 12.0 percent, the agency said.

The national average would take only 19 years before topping the 20 percent mark, the agency said.

These figures mean that the percentage of people aged 65 and older in the depopulated areas has exceeded the alarming 20 percent level by 19 years ahead of the national average, the agency said.

The White Paper recommended stemming the accelerating aging of the population in these depopulated regions by inviting business firms capable of providing attractive places of employment for youth.

The White Paper also called for the government and autonomous bodies to step up fiscal spending in a manner capable of expediting resettlement of the youth population in these underpopulated areas.

According to the paper, the total population in these depopulated areas declined 5.7 percent in the five years between 1985 and 1990.

The speed of decrease in the 1985-90 period compared with a 3.7 percent drop registered in the previous five-year period between 1980 and 1985, it said.

The number of young people aged 20 to 24 plunged 41.7 percent between 1985 and 1990 in the depopulated regions, while that for those aged 15 to 19 dropped 25.5 percent during the same period, the White Paper said.

North Korea

Army Delivers Remains of U.S. MIA's at Panmunjom

SK2805051592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0506 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Panmunjom May 28 (KCNA)—The Korean People's Army [KPA] side delivered the remains of 15 U.S. soldiers, who were missing in the areas of the northern half of Korea during the Korean war (June 25, 1950-July 27, 1953), to the "U.N. Forces" side here today, according to repeated humanitarian steps of the DPRK Government.

KPA Lieut. Gen. Kwon Chung-yong and Maj. Gen of the U.S. Air Force James F. Record, chief of the staff of "U.N. Forces Command", were present at Panmunjom where the remains were delivered.

Our side had delivered remains on several occasions since it delivered them to the U.S. side on May 28, 1990.

'American Freedom Coalition' Delegation Visits

SK2805113892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1056 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 28 (KCNA)—A delegation of the American Freedom Coalition headed by former Congressman Richard H. Ichord, co-chairman of the Freedom Coalition, arrived here today by a DPRK airliner.

The delegation consists of Douglas MacArthur the Second, former assistant secretary of state for congressional relations; Robert Grant, president of the American Freedom Coalition; John Holdridge, former assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific affairs; Thomas Alford, former congressman; Tim Babcock, former governor of Montana; David Cargo, former governor of New Mexico; Gerald Carmen, former U.S. permanent representative to the U.N. office in Geneva; Raul Castro, former governor of Arizona; Stefan Halper, former assistant secretary of state for political and military affairs; Patrick Hillings, former congressman; Lawrence Hogan, former congressman; Max Hugel, former deputy director of the CIA; Bob Mathias, former congressman; James Lloyd, former congressman; Lucien Nedzi, former congressman; Arthur Rosen, former president of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations; Thomas Ward, executive director of the American Leadership Conference; Gary Jarmin, national political director of the American Freedom Coalition; Hwang Yopchu, professor of the Beijing Central National School; Antonio Betancourt, executive director of the World Peace Summit Council; James Gavin, president of Virginia Ad Co.; Martin Moran, director of the law department of the American Freedom Coalition; Mary Pirault, executive secretary of the American Freedom Coalition; Lawrence Moffitt, executive director of the World Media Association; and Victoria Yokota, director of the WASHINGTON TIMES photo agency.

The delegation was met at the airport by Kim Yong-sun, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] and secretary of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK]; Kim Hyong-u, vice-director of a department of the C.C., WPK; Yi Song-ho, vice-chairman of the Korean Society for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries; and other officials concerned.

The head of the delegation made public an arrival statement at the airport.

He extended deep appreciation to President Kim Il-song and Secretary Kim Chong-il for the very kind and gracious opportunity for the delegation to visit Korea.

Our two nations have reached an historical crossroads in the development of relations, he said, and went on: The time has come for our two peoples to seek mutual understanding and to begin to develop ties based upon respect, trust and the guiding principles of international law.

Noting that much remains to be accomplished in the development of friendly relations between the two nations, he expressed the hope that the delegation's visit would prove to be a very significant and historical step in the development of friendship and peaceful relations between the two peoples.

We also believe that the development of friendship and understanding between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will have a profound impact on enhancing peace and stability in this region, he said, adding: Now is the time for peace and it is the time to "beat our swords into plowshares."

We welcome this opportunity to begin a dialogue and sharing of views with your nation's leaders, he said, expressing thanks once again to President Kim Il-song, Secretary Kim Chong-il and to the SPA.

Statement Issued on Asylum for Student in Moscow

SK2805121092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1107 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 28 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the Education Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued a statement to the press on May 27.

He said in the statement:

Some newspapers of the Russian Federation recently reported that Kim Myong-se, a Korean postgraduate studying in Moscow, asked for "political asylum" and carried articles as they wished contending that his request must be met.

This is an act of those who are totally ignorant of the truth.

As for Kim Myong-se, he is a criminal who has already committed grave criminal and economic offences not only in our country but also in his dealings with our citizens in the Russian Federation.

He has been in hiding since October 15 last year, feeling guilty of what he had committed. The criminal must be dealt with in due course by the law of our country.

This notwithstanding, some Russian newspapers are now unjustifiably talking about "political asylum" of the criminal and economic offender.

A criminal and economic offender cannot be granted "political asylum" either in view of the international law or in view of the world declaration on human rights. Should the insidious request of a criminal be met, it would be denounced as an act of trampling upon even the elementary provision of the international law.

Moreover, the Russian Federation is under legal and moral obligations to properly deal with the criminal by law since it claims to be a "legal heir" of the former Soviet Union.

The Russian Federation must deliver the criminal to our side without delay according to the relevant legal documents including the consular accord signed between our country and the former Soviet Union.

It is a futile attempt for some Russian newspapers to distort the truth of the case and use it for their sinister purposes.

We hope this problem will be solved in accordance with the spirit of the legal agreements and traditional friendly relations between the two countries, in compliance with the requirements of international law and on ths basis of humanitarian principles.

Malaysian Information Minister, Delegation Arrive

SK2305155292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 23 (KCNA)—A government information and broadcasting delegation of Malaysia headed by Information Minister Datuk Mohamed bin Rahmat arrived here today.

It was met at the airport by Kim Ki-yong, chairman of the Information Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Cha Sung-su, vice-chairman of the Radio and TV Broadcasting Committee of Korea and other officials concerned and an official of the Indonesian Embassy here. The DPRK Government gave a reception for the delegation this evening.

Information Agreement Signed

BK2505050892 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0430 GMT 25 May 92

[By Ahmad Zukiman Zain]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 25 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia and North Korea have agreed to establish cooperation in the fields of information and broadcasting to enable the people of both countries understand each other better.

Malaysian Information Minister Mohamed Rahmat and his North Korean counterpart, Kim Ki-yong, held talks here Sunday and were of the opinion that such cooperation would further promote bilateral ties.

Kim is chairman of the country's Information Committee.

Mohamed explained to Kim, Malaysia's policy of allowing the people to learn more of societies in other countries.

He said Malaysia was prepared to accommodate material from North Korea in the programme which was broadcast by Television Malaysia.

Mohamed said the peoples of both countries could learn about each other's cultures and the spirit of national development through the exchange of broadcast material.

Kim said his country appreciated the success Malaysia had achieved under the rule of the Malaysian King (Yang Dipertuan Agung) Sultan Azlan Shah, and Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, and expressed the hope that Malaysia would become a developed nation by the year 2020.

Mohamed, is on a three-day official visit. He is accompanied by the director general of broadcasting, Jaafar Kamin, and seven other ministry officials and reporters.

Kim Il-song Receives Delegation

SK2505124492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1107 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 25 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song on May 25 received the government information and broadcasting delegation of Malaysia headed by Information Minister Datuk Mohamed bin Rahmat on a visit to Korea.

Present were Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and chairman of the Information Committee of the DPRK Kim Ki-yong.

President Kim Il-song conversed with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

The Malaysian information minister presented a gift to him.

Further on Meeting With Kim Il-song

BK2505080192 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0706 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang, May 25 (OANA-BERNAMA)—North Korean President Kim Il-song Monday expressed the hope that relations between Malaysia and North Korea would be stepped up in an effort to bring about greater regional cooperation.

The 80-year-old leader welcomed Malaysia's effort to establish an agreement on information and broadcasting with North Korea and said he hoped that bilateral cooperation could be extended to other fields as well.

Kim expressed these sentiments at a meeting, which lasted for about 30 minutes, with Information Minister Mohamed Rahmat at his office, Keum Sou San.

He praised the determination of Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed and the Malaysian Government in developing the country, enhancing the well being of the people.

The Malaysian delegation led by Mohamed, which arrived here three days ago for the signing of the agreement on information and broadcasting later today, was overwhelmed by the unscheduled meeting with Kim.

Also present at the meeting were North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and chairman of the North Korean committee on information Kim Ki-yong, who is Mohamed's counterpart.

President Kim had expressed the hope that Dr. Mahathir would visit North Korea again, Mohamed said. Dr Mahathir had visited Pyongyang in 1979 when he was deputy Prime Minister.

Kim Yong-sun Meets Group

SK2505051692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0500 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 25 (KCNA)—Views were exchanged here Sunday between Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], and Datuk Mohamed bin Rahmat, general secretary of the United Malay's National Organization (UMNO) and Information Minister of Malaysia.

Present on the occasion was Kim Yang-kon, vice-director of a department of the C.C., WPK.

The sides informed each other of activities of their parties and exchanged views on further development of the friendly relations between the two parties and a series of matters of mutual concern.

'No Progress' Made in 5th Nuclear Control Meeting

SK2705140792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1213 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] The fifth meeting of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Commission [JNCC] was held today behind closed doors at Tongilgak in our side's area of Panmunjom.

At the end of the meeting, our side's chairman held a news briefing and gave an explanation about the meeting.

According to him, our side pointed out that no progress was made in contacts between members after the JNCC's fourth meeting on 12 May, and documents necessary for verifying the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula were not adopted within the deadline agreed upon by both sides. Our side stressed that the reason for this is the South side's erroneous position concerning implementation of the joint denuclearization declaration.

Stating that adoption of agreements for implementing the joint declaration is an agreement between the two sides and is the most important function of the JNCC, our side stressed that the joint committee should give priority to discussing their adoption.

Our side revealed that this notwithstanding, the South side refused to discuss the agreements, insisting on discussing only inspection regulations.

Our side also pointed out that the South side took an unjust position on selection of targets of inspection and on inspection methods. The South side claimed that provisions on nuclear weapons and nuclear bases should be eliminated from the inspection regulations, and the targets of inspection should be selected on the basis of reciprocity. This is an insidious act designed to block the inspection of U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea and to dissipate the discussion of inspection regulations.

Our side stressed that the lack of progress in contacts between members was also related to the South side's unjust view on the system of composing the inspection regulations. Our side pointed out that the South side's opposition to composing the provisions on inspection of nuclear weapons and nuclear bases as an independent system is aimed at refusing the inspection of nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea.

Our side stressed that in order for both sides to rapidly conclude the discussion of agreements and of inspection regulations, they should unanimously stand on the position of substantively and sincerely implementing the joint declaration, and they should not insist on unilateral demands. Each side should take practical action instead of merely giving lip service. Our side expressed the hope that at today's meeting the South side would present without fail a draft of agreements for implementing the joint declaration.

However, the South side, as soon as it sat down with us, talked about the so-called shooting incident in the Demilitarized Zone on the Military Demarcation Line. Thus, the South side laid artificial obstacles to the JNCC work for implementing the joint denuclearization declaration by turning the venue of talks into a site of confrontation and arguments.

Forcefully calling the South side's insidious act into account, our side said that making remarks about the so-called incident, which has nothing to do with us and which happened on the South side, is the same as singing the same tune as those who are not pleased with the atmosphere of reconciliation, which is developing satisfactorily between the North and the South, and who are not pleased about implementing the North-South agreement and joint denuclearization declaration. This is a premeditated maneuver to hinder the adoption of any document at today's meeting and is an undisguised delaying tactic.

The true intention of the South side became even more clear when the main issues were discussed. Commenting on the basic issue, the South side—which was pressed hard by our side—said that there is no change in its position that the agreement on fulfilling the joint declaration is not necessary, and it insisted on discussing only the regulations for inspection.

The South side not only repeated its unreasonable original opinion on the so-called special inspection, inspection of military bases, and principle of reciprocity, but also talked about nuclear reprocessing facilities. It made a presumptuous remark that without resolving this issue it will be impossible to improve DPRK-U.S. and DPRK-Japan relations.

In response, our side strongly stated that for the South side to go against the agreement made by both sides and to come without the draft agreement demonstrates an insincere attitude and tramples on faithfulness.

If denuclearization on the Korean peninsula is to be realized, our side clearly stated that nuclear weapons and nuclear bases must be included in the regulations for inspection and that this must be established as an independent provision. Our side also revealed that the South side's insistence on including special inspection and inspection of general military bases into sites for inspection, which are not even included in the joint declaration, is a maneuver to delay the fulfillment of the joint declaration on denuclearization and nuclear inspection.

The South side claimed that if all targets of inspection are selected by the other side, those targets will turn into so-called sites of dead angles [sagak chidae] and so forth and that without inspection of military bases inspection of nuclear bases is impossible. Our side pointed out that this upsets the provision in the joint declaration effectuated by the chief authorities of the North and South and that this is only a repeat of what the Americans said—that they cannot show nuclear weapons and nuclear bases.

Our side also refuted the South side's remark about the possibility of smuggling in nuclear weapons and clearly stated that if the agreement on fulfilling the joint declaration on denuclearization and discussions on regulations for inspection are carried out well, everything will be settled.

Our side resolutely stated that the South side's attempt to pick a quarrel with our side at a time when our work with international organizations is going well is an attempt to create a new barrier.

Our side said that for the South side to talk about some kind of DPRK-U.S., DPRK-Japan relations reflects the Americans' real intention of driving a wedge in the early settlement of the North- South agreement and joint declaration. Our side also emphasized that whatever anyone says, we must fulfill the joint declaration on denuclearization, which has already been born.

Our side asked if the South side will discuss as a package the agreement and regulations for inspection to fulfill the joint agreement as agreed upon by both sides or establish the inspection of nuclear weapons and nuclear bases as an independent provision in the regulations for inspection.

The South side avoided answering and repeatedly made unreasonable remarks. Therefore, today's talks were also fruitless.

While summing up the talks, our side emphasized that the South side is totally responsible for the inability to make any progress in the talks. Our side demanded that at the next meeting the South side must come with the draft agreement for fulfilling the joint declaration, and we proposed that the next talks be held on 16 June. The South side did not respond to this. It was decided that the date for the next talks will be settled through the liaison office in Panmunjom.

N-S Red Cross Meetings on Exchanges Proposed

SK2805110992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1054 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 28 (KCNA)—Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society, today sent a telephone message to Kang Yong-hun, president of the South Korean Red Cross, regarding the simultaneous exchange of visiting groups of old parents and art troupes on the occasion of the August 15 liberation anniversary.

The message proposed to the South side to have a Red Cross working-level contact between the sides at the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission at Panmunjom at 10:00 June 6, 1992 (Saturday).

It noted that two working delegates will be sent to the contact.

Radio Denies Defector's Allegations on Control

SK2405111492 (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea 0300 GMT 24 May 92

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] As was already reported, on 22 May the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] held a news conference to smear the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] and the Voice of National Salvation [VNS] by displaying an unidentified man called O Kil-nam.

In the news conference, claiming that he had worked at the Echo of the Masses Radio, the unidentified man called O Kil-nam let loose a long string of sophistry about SKNDF and VNS. The Echo of the Masses Radio, where O Kil-nam claimed that he had worked, does not exist, in reality. In addition, the man called O Kil-nam has never worked at the VNS Editorial Bureau.

It is clear that the man called O Kil-nam, who has never worked in our VNS, is an unidentified man bought off by the NSP. The origin of this, as the crisis of the fascist ruling group is deepening, is that the No Tae-u group has woven a plot to divert the people's attention elsewhere. This is common sense.

The NSP had a reason to weave a contemptible plot to smear our radio by displaying an unidentified man entirely unrelated with VNS. As you know, the North-South agreement was adopted and validated. Other issues, including forming and operating joint committees to implement the agreement and exchanging art troupes and separated families, were also resolved. Such being the case, our people's desire for reunification has risen more sharply than ever. In addition, the movement for independence, democracy, and reunification has been vigorously launched.

Taken by surprise, the No Tae-u group kicked up a racket to arrest patriotic students by taking advantage of the incident in which they hoisted the North's flag. To divert the attention elsewhere of the enraged masses, the No Tae-u group wove a new plot to smear our VNS radio by displaying an unidentified man.

By weaving a political plot which is plain to anyone, the No Tae-u group is trying to frustrate the patriotic movements of the masses of all strata. It also is trying to create an artificial stumbling block and to place a premeditated hurdle in the way of implementing the North-South agreement, which is on the point of being implemented.

The reason why the NSP wove such a contemptible plot is that it has an impure political purpose to curb the great VNS radio's influence, which is growing among our masses day by day.

As you know, as for VNS radio, it is the voice of the SKNDF, which is the organizational personification of the ROK masses' desire and will. VNS radio is also the patriotic vanguard unit of the movement for independence, democracy, and reunification. VNS radio, which has raised aloft the patriotic pen, is the spreader of the chuche idea and a true nation-saving guide.

VNS radio is the voice of victory, which gives confidence and courage to the fighting patriotic masses and gives anxiety and fear to the fascist traitorous group. With each passing day, the influence of VNS radio becomes greater. The number of those who enjoy listening to VNS radio is greatly increasing. To curb our radio's influence, the NSP wove a dirty and contemptible plot by displaying a man bought off by the NSP. However, the NSP, through its clumsy plot, revealed that it itself is good at spreading false propaganda.

The man called O Kil-nam said in the news conference that approximately 16 South Korean persons are working at VNS radio. [passages indistinct].

Even though the No Tae-u group weaves such criminal plots, it cannot divert the people's keen attention. The No Tae-u group cannot quell our people's movement against the United States and fascism. The movement is daily spreading and surging.

The No Tae-u group cannot weather the daily deepening crisis, either. [passage indistinct] The No Tae-u group should immediately rescind the National Security Law, which is a vicious evil law against the nation and reunification. It should also guarantee the freedom of activities of all progressive organizations, including SKNDF.

Now, our people and all the fellow countrymen are ardently hoping that the door for reunifying the fatherland will widely open with the implementation of the North-South agreement.

The No Tae-u group should stop committing crimes against the nation and reunification, which goes against the trend of the times and the will of the people. The No Tae-u group should sincerely implement the North-South agreement as required by the fellow countrymen.

Daily Demands South Halt 'Confrontation'

SK2805110292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022 GMT 28 May 92

["S. Korean Authorities Must Discard Antagonism and Confrontation Concept"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 28 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN urges in a by-lined article today that the South Korean authorities must stop at once confrontation and war moves and discard without delay antagonism and confrontation concept against the northern half of the country.

It is an urgent demand at present which brooks no delay for the development of North-South relations and national reunification to cast away the deep-rooted antagonism and confrontation concept between the two sides, the article notes, and goes on:

To throw away hostile feelings and achieve reconciliation and unity between the North and the South is an important requisite to a successful promotion of the ongoing North-South dialogue and acceleration of the implementation of the agreement. The South Korean authorities, however, are actually doing the improper act of throwing mud at our system at the negotiating table.

When the South side distrusts us, its dialogue partner, and openly reveals its intention of confrontation with the North, it is impossible to have a sincere dialogue or expect a correct solution to any problem related to the reunification of the country.

Although our nation is divided into the North and the South against its will, there is no reason for the two parts to antagonize and confront each other.

If the people of the North and the South, as a homogeneous nation, are to reconcile themselves to and unite with each other, they must rather believe and trust fellow countrymen than outside forces and take an independent stand of resolving the problem of national reunification by the efforts of the internal forces of the nation. If the South Korean rulers take the position of breaking with outside forces and reconciling themselves to and uniting with the fellow countrymen in the North, the North and the South can well solve the reunification question by the efforts of the nation's internal forces.

For national reconciliation and unity, it is also necessary to pull down all the barriers built against the North.

The South Korean authorities must abrogate the notorious "National Security Law" and stop their suppression of the patriotic forces desirous of reunification.

If the South Korean ruling quarters persistently put a spoke in the wheel of the implementation of the agreement, pursuing confrontation with the North, they will meet a stern rebuff from the people, warns the article.

Daily Stresses Need for World Independence, Peace

SK2805110492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 28 May 92

["Independence, Peace and Friendship Are Noble Common Idea of Mankind"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 28 (KCNA)—Independence, peace and friendship are a noble common idea of mankind. If they fight in unity on the basis of this idea, the world people can put an end to the old world and bring a great change in building a new independent world.

NODONG SINMUN says this in a signed article today.

The article notes:

The world people are unanimously demanding an independent life.

Independence is not only the life and soul of each man but also that of each nation. There are big and small countries in the world, but there cannot be superior and inferior among them. And there are developed and less developed nations but there cannot be dominating and dominated nations. When all countries and nations maintain an independent stand and reject any interference of outside forces, the dominationist forces will lose their ground. Then there will be no dominating and dominated nations in the world and complete equality and freedom of the countries and nations will be ensured.

The world people unanimously want to live in a peaceful world where there is no war.

If peace is to be ensured, the root cause of threat to it must be removed. Its root cause is none other than the imperialists' policy of aggression and war. So, it is necessary to wage an active common struggle against the imperialist policy of aggression and war.

The world people want to live in friendship, helping each other, in a peaceful world.

To develop friendly and cooperative relations and strengthen unity among countries and peoples is an important guarantee for the struggle for independence in each country and for a succcessful promotion of the human cause of independence.

The Korean people will wage a dynamic struggle for the independence of the whole world in close unity with the world people on the basis of the idea of independence, peace and friendship, declares the article.

South Korea

UN Command Receives Remains of MIA's

SK2805062592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0551 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 28 (YONHAP)—Remains reported to be those of 15 United Nations Command [UNC] service members were turned over to the command in a ceremony Thursday at the border truce village of Panmunjom.

The remains were accepted by U.S. Army Col. Edward C. O'Dowd, UN Command representative. It was the second time in two weeks for North Korea to return remains to UNC officials.

"POW/MIA accounting is a humanitarian effort. The UNC and all associated governments are deeply committed to achieving the fullest possible accounting for all missing UNC combatants, including Americans," O'Dowd said after the ceremony.

"We hope that many more such repatriations will occur as rapidly as possible in an effort to resolve the fates of Americans and all U.N. service members still unaccounted for in Korea."

Steel Companies Accuse U.S. Makers of Dumping

SK2805072392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0556 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 28 (YONHAP)—The South Korean steelmakers have launched probes into suspected dumping of U.S.-made hot coil, which is being imported at about 100 U.S. dollars below its price in the United States.

Industry officials say major U.S. makers sold hot coil at 330 dollars to 340 dollars a ton (including freight) last year and have lowered the price to 320 dollars this year.

Without freight charges, the price is 270 dollars in Korea and 370 dollars in the United States.

With marine transportation costing 40 dollars a ton and land transportation costing 20 dollars to 30 dollars a ton, the import price should be at least 430 dollars, according to the officials.

Besides, a U.S. ton of hot coil is equivalent to 0.907 tons in Korea so the dumping margin would be wider, they say.

The industry is studying the filing of a counter anti-dumping suit against U.S. steelmakers if they push ahead with similiar suits against Korean-made hot coil and cold-rolled sheet.

Korea imported 228 million dollars of hot coil from the United States last year and 34 million dollars in January-March this year.

Tripartite Talks on North Nuclear Issue Set

SK2805115092 Seoul YONHAP in English 1115 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 28 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea, the United States and Japan will hold working-level discussions Saturday on North Korea's nuclear issue and political developments in Northeast Asia, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

The three countries will discuss joint measures after talks failed for inter-Korean mutual nuclear inspection Wednesday, ministry officials said.

South Korea will explain the results of the past two months of nuclear negotiations with North Korea and emphasize the importance of inter-Korean nuclear inspection in addition to the probe by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), they said.

This is the second working-level discussion after the first meeting a year ago in Washington.

Yi Ho-chin and Kim Yong-mok, directors of the Foreign Ministry's North American Divisions 1 and 2, are South Korean participants. Charles Kartman, Korea desk chief at the U.S. State Department, and Mason Hendrickson, minister-counselor for political affairs at the U.S. Embassy, will represent the U.S. side.

Japanese delegates are Masatoshi Muto, director of the Japanese Foreign Ministry Northeast Asia Division, and Toshiro Ozawa, director of the Security Division.

World Support for Nuclear Inspections Sought

SK2805024192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0147 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 28 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea, alarmed by Wednesday's [27 May] failure of the inter-Korean nuclear inspection talks, will increase international support and domestic measures for early inspection, officials said Thursday.

An inter-ministerial meeting is planned this week, and the Foreign Ministry has instructed all overseas diplomatic missions to emphasize to their host countries the importance of inter-Korean mutual nuclear inspection as a prerequisite to improvement in South- North Korean relations.

"We have asked for cooperation with the United States and Japan, and also with China and Russia," a Ministry official said.

Talks are under way with Charles Kartman, chief of the Korea desk at the U.S. State Department, who is in Seoul. Ronald Lehman, director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, is due in Seoul Sunday

[31 May] for series of talks with Korean officials in charge of the nuclear inspection talks.

The South-North Korean Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC) met Wednesday for the fifth time in two months to work out the inspection regime, but the talks collapsed.

The failure broke a loose agreement by the two sides that they would decide on the regime by end of this month and conduct the first inspection by mid-June.

South Korea insists on including military installations in the inspection sites and on challenge inspections, which would be conducted with just 24 hours notice.

North Korea refuses to open its military bases, demands to see all U.S. bases in the South and opposes challenge inspections. It is demanding a separate agreement to make the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free zone.

South Korea is requesting other countries, through its overseas missions, to be prudent in normalizing or improving ties with North Korea without a resolution of the inter-Korean nuclear inspection problem and progress in South-North Korean dialogue, the official said.

"South Korea and the United States share the opinion that both inter-Korean and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections must be conducted, and that without progress in solving the nuclear problem, there can be no improvement in inter-Korea ties or in relations between North Korea and other South Korean allies," he said.

The official added that South Korea has requested support from China, a long-time ally of North Korea which has yet to establish formal ties with South Korea.

Pyongyang was apparently trying to first weaken international pressure by accepting IAEA inspection, under way since Monday [25 May], before inter-Korean inspection, officials said.

Seoul delegates will, therefore, make strong-toned remarks at the IAEA Board of Governors' meeting in Vienna June 15 emphasizing the importance of inter-Korean nuclear inspection, they said.

However, the failure of the nuclear talks was unlikely to affect plans for family reunions and prime ministers' meetings, another official said, though it would affect direct economic assistance and personnel exchanges between the two sides.

North Believed To Have 15 Kg Plutonium Extract

SK2805111692 Seoul YONHAP in English 1100 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 28 (YONHAP)—North Korea is believed to have picked up some 130 to 180 tons of nuclear waste from its second nuclear reactor, an amount sufficient enough to produce at least 15 kilograms of plutonium extract, a South Korean delegate to the inter-Korean high-level talks said Thursday.

Yi Tong-pok, spokesman for the southern side of the prime ministers' talks, told reporters that his estinmation was based on information the government had obtained. The second North Korean reactor, a 30-megawatt-class one, has been in operation since 1987.

Turning to inter-Korean discussion on nuclear inspection regime, that hit a snag Wednesday, Yi said, "The South Korean Government will first watch the results of the International Atomic Energy Agency's [IAEA] inspection and then take countermeasures."

But he claimed that the IAEA's inspection would not be instrumental enough in uncovering a nuclear weapons program as it would primarily be focused on the processing of nuclear materials used for industrial purposes.

"In this context," Yi added, "the proposed inter-Korean mututal inspection is a must for North Korea to dispel the high-running suspicion about its possible nuclear ambition."

Yi said the Seoul government, however, would not let the deadlock of the nuclear talks hamper the high-level talks and family reunion programs.

Yi ruled out possible discord between Seoul and Washington over the nuclear issue, saying there had been no pressure from the United States with regard to the inter-Korean nuclear talks.

Separate Checks on Military Facilities Considered

SK2805112592 Seoul YONHAP in English 1107 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 28 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea is considering separate inter-Korean nuclear inspection agreements for military and civilian facilities to push forward negotiations with North Korea, officials said Thursday.

North Korea demands to see all of the U.S. military bases in South Korea in exchange for showing only its Yongbyon facilities, suspected of hiding a nuclear reprocessing plant.

"If North Korea drops this demand, we may seek two separate nuclear inspection agreements for civilian and military facilities," said an official.

"North Korea has long insisted on seeing the American military bases and it is not sure whether it will back down. But Pyongyang is strongly against including its military installation in the inspection, and separate agreements may break the deadlock," the official said.

Fifth meeting of the South-North Korean Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC) broke down Wednesday, virtually annulling an agreement made in principle to decide on the inspection regime by end of the month and conduct the first inspection by mid-June.

South Korea insists on reciprocity, meaning North Korea must open its own military bases if it wants to see the bases in the South. It also insists on challenge inspection for a spontaneous inspection on a designated site with just a 24-hour prior notice.

North Korea refused both of these demands at Wednesday's JNCC meeting.

"Even if the agreements are made separately, we will still negotiate them simultaneously," the official said, "there is no change in our basic position that military bases must be subject to inspection in order to completely dispel suspicion about North Korea's nuclear development."

Bilateral Fisheries Talks Held With PRC

SK2805091792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0841 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 28 (YONHAP)—South Korea and China have agreed to open talks this year on a bilateral fisheries agreement establishing fishing zones and quotas, Foreign Ministry officials said Thursday.

They also renewed their cooperation agreement on handling accidents for another two years, the officials said.

Korea and China, which have yet to establish diplomatic ties, held their fourth round of talks on preventing sea accidents and violation of each other's fishing zones in Beijing May 19-23. They held their first meeting in December 1988.

"The two countries widely exchanged views on how to prevent encroachment in each other's territorial waters by fishermen and agreed to hold official negotiations in the near future to settle the fishing zones and quotas," an official said.

While both Seoul and Beijing say the talks are private-level negotiations, most of the delegates are government officials.

They renewed the agreement they signed in 1990 on handling compensation from fishing vessel accidents. The agreement, which expires June 30, was renewed for another two years.

Talks With Japan Fail To Detail 'Action Plan'

SK2805104492 Seoul YONHAP in English 1002 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 28 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea-Japan working-level talks failed to fill in any details to an economic "action plan" for rectifying growing trade imbalance in Tokyo's favor, officials said Thursday.

Japan expressed "extreme reservation" about establishing a foundation to promote industrial and science technology cooperation, the lynchpin of the bilateral talks, officials said.

South Korea proposed a 2 billion U.S. dollar-scale foundation, run by civilians but supported by the governments, to transfer some valuable technologies from Japan to ultimately lessen the trade deficit.

But Japanese officials said they have no precedents of such a foundation and reportedly expressed serious reservations about the government funding the foundation.

"The foundation will be established in one form or another, but the scale is likely to be much smaller than originally proposed. We will have to keep negotiating to make sure that the foundation will truly serve its purpose or promoting industrial and science technology cooperation," a South Korean delegate to the talks said.

The two countries did agree to initial an environmental cooperation agreement by end of next month and create a forum between South Korean and Japanese businessmen as soon as possible, the officials said.

The talks that began Wednesday precede the third meeting of the bilateral trade and industrial technology cooperation committee in Tokyo, June 11-12, when the two countries are expected to work out the final version of an action plan.

Korea recorded an 8.7 billion-dollar deficit with Japan last year, close to its entire 9.6 billion-dollar deficit for the period. It was nearly a twofold increase from a 4 billion-dollar deficit in 1989.

"The committee may have to meet once more in late June before the action plan is produced," the official said.

Energy Projects With Mongolia Considered

SK2805063292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0540 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 28 (YONHAP)—South Korea is likely to build a co-generation plant in Mongolia and will seek three-way coal trade with Russia, the Energy and Resources Ministry said Thursday.

Energy and resources Minister Chin Nyom, currently in Mongolia, had met with Minister for Fuel and Energy Byambiyn Jigjid, and other Mongolian officials and agreed on these cooperation projects, the Ministry said.

Mongolia plans to build four or five 10,000 kilowatt co-generation plants, which use multiple types of fuel to supply electricity and heat, ministry officials said.

Each plant costs approximately 15 million U.S. dollars, and Mongolia has asked South Korea to participate in the bidding for the first plant, the officials said.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) are funding the projects.

The Korea Heavy Machinery Industries Co. is expected to compete with U.S. and Japanese companies for the project, but Korea is most likely to win the bid on price and geographical advantage, the officials said.

Korea and Mongolia are also seeking ways to open three-way coal trade with Russia. Korea would develop Mongolia's bituminous coal mines and supply the coal to southern parts of Russia and receive in return high-quality bituminous coal from Russia.

Mongolia asked Korea to develop a coal mine in Baganwr that produces an annual 6 million tons of bituminous coal, but it is difficult for Korea to directly to import the resources, the officials said.

The two countries agreed on Korea's technological assistance for existing Mongolian power plants and a training session for Mongolian technicians, they said.

Defector Reveals Clandestine Radio Operations

SK2205144692 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Mr. O Kil-nam testified that he personally produced programs for the Voice of National Salvation [VNS], which is a clandestine radio station directed against the South, at Chilbosan Liaison Office in Pyongyang. Thus, North Korea's claim that VNS is a covert radio in South Korea is revealed as a pure lie.

Reporter Kim Chong-un reports about the organization in the Chilbosan Liaison Office in which South Korean defectors to the North are said to have been working.

[Begin recording] [Kim Chong-un] By the testimony of Mr. O Kil-nam, who gave himself up, North Korea's claim that a covert radio organization, that is, the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF], is operating in South Korea and that the radio organization directs the South Korean revolutionary forces action policy, is confirmed as a groundless lie.

Mr. O testified that the Chilbosan Liaison Office, situated in Hungbu-tong, Pyongyang city, is the actual building in which programs for VNS are produced. He added that the Chilbosan Liaison Office is the headquarters to propagandize and disseminate the chuche idea and red revolution.

The Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] judges that the SKNDF is a lower branch of the reunification propaganda department, which is an operational organization against the South under the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee. The NSP also judges that the reunification propaganda department controls the Chilbosan Liaison Office, overseas branches, each provincial party committee, and an auxiliary organization.

Mr. O revealed that Kim Chung-nin, who has directed operations against the South for decades, is the chief of the Chilbosan Liaison Office; and that Kim Tong-su, who visited Seoul on six occasions by disguising himself as an accompanying reporter when the North-South talks were held from the second half of the 1970's to the 1980's, is the person actually in charge of the Chilbosan Liaison Office. Mr. O also revealed that an organizational bureau, VNS, and The Echo of the Masses Radio are under the Chilbosan Liaison Office. He added that to disguise the radio stations as covert radios in South Korea, the Chilbosan Liaison Office has had South Korean defectors work at the radios.

[O Kil-nam] There is a special South Korean committee in the Chilbosan Liaison Office consisting of people coming from South Korea. The committee reviews and examines the radio manuscripts in accordance with South Korea's spellings, language, feelings, and situation.

[Kim Chong-un] In fact, Ho Hung-sik, who defected to the North while studying in France in 1985, and the Korean Airline stewardesses Song Kyong-hui and Chong Kyong-suk, who were detained in North Korea in 1969 when a Korean Airline plane was hijacked, have been working in VNS.

[O Kil-nam] The two stewardesses grieved over their detention in the North and greatly missed their parents. They were oppressed with sorrow.

[Kim Chong-un] Mr. O said that he himself had written manuscripts for the Echo of the Masses radio station to slander the South. He added that Sin Suk-cha, his wife; Chong Hyong-yong, who defected to the North in 1967 while studying in France; and Yun No- pin, former Pusan University professor who defected to the North with his five family members in 1985; have aired programs slandering the South.

This is a diagram of the Chilbosan Liaison Office drawn up according to Mr. O's testimony: two radio stations are situated on the first floor, rooms for editing and proofreading are on the second floor, and political study rooms are on the third floor for theoretically supporting propagandizing and agitating contents.

Mr. O revealed that the tapes, recorded in the Chilbosan Liaison Office, are sent to a transmitting station in Haeju, Hwanghae Province, and aired there. He revealed that North Korea has disguised the radio broadcasts as if they were from South Korean covert radio stations. [end recording]

Kim Tae-chung Interviewed After Nomination

SK2705102292 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 26 May 92

[Interview with Kim Tae-chung, co-chairman of the opposition Democratic Party, by anchorman Pak Tae-sok—live]

[Text] [Pak Tae-sok] We will now hear Kim Tae-chung give his views on his election as presidential candidate of the first opposition party and his plan for bringing his party to power. How are you?

[Kim Tae-chung] How are you?

[Pak] I would like to congratulate you on your election as presidential candidate.

[Kim] Thank you.

[Pak] You have been elected presidential candidate of an opposition party for the third time. Please give us your views upon being elected as presidential candidate of the first opposition party.

[Kim] This is the last time I will challenge. I have studied and prepared for 40 years what we should do when we are charged with state affairs. If the people give me a chance, agreeing to all of my plans after hearing them, I will put into practice the kind of politics that is truly correct, that brings happiness to the people, and that gives dreams to the young.

[Pak] Some analysts say the competition between the party's rival factions during the contention for the presidential candidacy was rather excessive and that the opposition party mergers failed to demonstrate that the opposition party is presenting the image of a regional party. What is your plan to heal the rift between the rival factions of the former New Democratic Party and the former Democratic Party in running for the presidential race?

[Kim] I do not quite agree with that analysis. It is true that there was some confrontation over the voting procedure for the presidential candidate. But a certain degree of confrontation is common in any party's national convention. What matters is not the confrontation itself but the democratic practice with which the party can solve the confrontation by means of dialogue and concession. As you have seen, we have resolved this problem well. From now on, I will cooperate with co-chairman Yi Ki-taek, and we will conduct the election campaign and the election jointly. If we come to power, he and I will operate the government together.

[Pak] In the upcoming presidential election campaign, several candidates, including Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] candidate Kim Yong-sam and Unification National Party candidate Chong Chu-yong, will be competing. Who do you think will be the most difficult opponent? What are the chances of your winning the election?

[Kim] I would naturally regard the DLP candidate as the most difficult to compete with since he is backed by power, an enormous amount of money, powerful party organizations, and powerful government organizations. However, the people are thoroughly disappointed with the DLP regime's misgovernment. As you know, the people ordered the opposition to merge, indicating that if it did they would help us gain power. Thus, our opposition party was formed from an opposition merger, and I think we are in a favorable position to come into power.

[Pak] The presidential race between you and DLP candidate Kim Yong-sam may well turn out again to be a confrontation between the Yongnam and Honam regions, and many worry that this will touch off an excessive confrontation between the two regions. What is your view of this?

[Kim] I often hear these worries, but I do not think the two of us should be responsible for the confrontation and antagonism between the two regions. I have struggled, risking my life so many times and spending years in jail, not for any particular provinces but for all of the 43 million people. I do not want to be a man of regional inclination. Therefore, I think I am the appropriate person to eliminate regional antagonism. If we come into power, we will form a pan-national cabinet based on the regional population ratio in consideration of the regional antagonism, though this is not the only way to deal with the problem. This will result in a cabinet consisting of more ministers from Yongnam and Seoul. If I explain plans like this to the people, I think we will be able to solve the problem because the root of the problem is not fundamentally deep.

[Pak] We understand that since last year you have been trying to convert your hawkish image into a moderate conservative image as a campaign strategy. Will you tell us your major strategies for the presidential race and your campaign promises?

[Kim] I have converted my hawkish image into a moderate image not as a campaign strategy but because the times have changed. I have returned to my original stance in conformity with the changing times and in order to walk the same path with the people. I had to wage a fierce struggle when the regime was evil. However, now that the regime no longer has such evil power and the military does not intervene in politics, I think I should conduct myself peacefully as the people demand.

[Pak] The 13th National Assembly completes its term this week. When do you think is the appropriate time to open the 14th National Assembly? What will your plan be for negotiating the opening of the new assembly?

[Kim] Our party has not yet made any official decision on this, but my personal opinion is that the middle of June is appropriate for opening the assembly. I think that prior negotiations are necessary to help the National Assembly operate smoothly from the outset. I also think that elections of the heads of the autonomous organizations—whose terms of office end at the end of June—should be held toward the end of the year at the same time as the presidential election. Also, the allotment to the governing body of the National Assembly should be made according to the distribution ratio of the assembly seats. Prior agreement should be made on these two issues to ensure the smooth formation of the 14th National Assembly. I am planning to discuss this with the Unification National Party and the independents.

Burma

Committee Formed To Discuss National Convention

BK2805112692 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0933 GMT 28 May 92

[Notification No. 35/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, dated 28 May 1992]

[Text] Formation of leading committee to hold a coordination meeting for the convening of the national convention.

1. The State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], with regards to the convening of the national convention, has issued Declaration No. 11/92 on 24 April 1992 stating that the SLORC will hold meetings and consultations with leading members of parliament from existing legal political parties and independent members of parliament within two months.

2. In accordance with the above declaration, the SLORC has formed a leading committee to hold a coordination meeting for the convening of the national convention with the following members.

Leading Committee

A. Major General Myo Nyunt, member of SLORC,—chairman;
B. Brigadier General Myo Thant, minister for information,—vice chairman;
C. U Aung Toe, chief justice,—member;
D. U Tha Dun, attorney general,—member;
E. Brig. Gen. Than U, military judge advocate general,—member;
F. Brig. Gen. Tin Aye, military inspector general,—member;
G. Colonel Than Tun, deputy director from the Directorate of Defense Services Intelligence [DDSI],—member;
H. Col. Ye Htut, director of military history museum and military archives,—member;
I. Lieutenant Colonel Than Tun, general staff officer grade-1, DDSI,—member;
J. U Aye Maung, director general, Multiparty Democratic General Election Commission Office,—member;
K. U Aung Khin Tint, legal adviser of SLORC,—member;
L. U Thein Sein, official on special duty of SLORC,—member;
M. Col. Aung Thein, director from the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare;—secretary
N. U Myo Nyunt, director general of Pyeithu Hluttaw [People's Assembly] Office;—joint secretary-1
O. U Aung Nyunt, deputy director general, Pyeithu Hluttaw Office;—joint secretary-2

3. The leading committee, after holding the coordination meeting with regards to the convening of the national convention, must present a report with their suggestions, proposals and recommendations to the SLORC within one month.

By the authorithy vested in me,

Signed: Khin Nyunt, major general, secretary-1 of SLORC.

Meeting Date, Specifics Set

BK2805123792 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0933 GMT 28 May 92

[Order No. 9/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, dated 28 May 1992]

[Text] Invitation to the coordination meeting for the convening of the national convention.

1. The State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], with regards to the convening of the national convention, has issued Declaration No. 11/92 on 24 April 1992 stating that the SLORC will hold meetings and consultations with leading members of parliament from existing legal political parties and independent members of Parliament within two months. Thus, in accordance with that declaration, the SLORC has determined the coordination meeting for the convening of the national convention to be held as follows:

A. Meeting opening date—23 June 1992;
B. Commencement time—0800;
C. Venue—the meeting hall, the state president's house premises, Ahlone Road.

2. The following terms will be used in this order:

A. "Coordination meeting" means "the coordination meeting for the convening of the national convention";

B. "Leading committee" means "the leading committee to hold a coordination meeting for the convening of the National Convention."

3. The main objective of the coordination meeting is for the convening of the national convention.

4. The leading comittee, formed with SLORC's Notification No. 35/92 issued on 28 May 1992 and in accordance with the stipulations in paragraph one, shall act as needed, intending to foster the successful completion of the coordination meeting.

5. Leading members of parliament from existing legal political parties shall attend the coordination meeting in accordance with the number of delegates given below:

A. National League for Democracy, 15 persons;
B. Shan Nationalities League for Democracy, six persons;
C. National Unity Party, three persons;
D. Union Pa-O National Organization, one person;
E. Mro, or Khami National Solidarity Organization, one person;

F. Shan State Kokang Democratic Party, one person; and
G. La-Hu National Development Party, one person.

6. Existing legal political parties shall select leading members of parliament who will represent the parties in accordance with the number of delegates mentioned in paragraph five and shall present the namelist to the leading committee no later than 12 June 1992. When the namelist is received, the leading committee shall invite those in the namelist to the coordination meeting.

7. The leading committee shall invite those independent members of parliament, who are existing legal independent members of parliament up to this day, to the coordination meeting from amongst those independent members of parliament whom the SLORC had already informed by mail.

8. The leading committee must:

A. determine the programs of the coordination meeting;
B. determine the agenda of the coordination meeting;
C. determine the procedures of the coordination meeting;
D. determine the daily allowances and travelling allowances for the delegates, who are members of parliament, as needed; and,
E. must present a report to the SLORC, with regards to the convening of the national convention, within one month after the end of the coordination meeting.

9. The Pyeithu Hluttaw [People's Assembly] Office personnel shall take the responsibility of supportive administrative activities for the success of the coordination meeting.

10. The expenses for the coordination meeting shall be paid for by the Pyeithu Hluttaw Office fund.

By the authorithy vested in me,

Signed: Khin Nyunt, major general, secretary-1 of SLORC.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Singapore

Police To Arrest Trespassers on Disputed Island

BK2305162092 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 22 May 92 p 2

[Text] Singapore takes a serious view of of any attempt to land illegally on Pedra Branca and will arrest anyone who tries to do so, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

"If anyone tried to do so, the police will arrest and charge him with illegal entry into Singapore territory," he said.

He was responding to a query from reporters on what action the Republic might take if the Malaysian opposition party, Parti Islam (PAS) [All Malaysia Islamic Party] went ahead with its plan to stake Malaysia's claim to the island, which it calls Pulau Batu Putih.

In a report yesterday, PAS deputy youth leader, Mr Mohamad Sabu, said that the party's youth wing was preparing to send a group of its supporters to plant the Malaysian flag on the island, on which stands Horsburgh Lighthouse.

If true, said the ministry's spokesman, such a move would be an irresponsible act as well as an offence under Singapore laws.

He noted that the two governments have agreed on a procedure to resolve Malaysia's claim to the island on a legal basis and this process was well in hand.

"Anyone who takes such flagrant action will not help advance an amicable settlement," he said.

Under the Immigration Act, the penalty for entering Singapore territory illegally is a mandatory prison term of at least three months and up to two years, and at least three strokes of the cane.

In addition, the island, which lies 55 km from mainland Singapore, was gazetted last November as a protected place under the Protected Areas and Protected Places Act.

Under the act, anyone who enters a protected place illegally can be fined [Singapore dollars] $1,000 or imprisoned for two years, or both.

Section 9 of the act also empowers an authorised officer to use whatever force necessary to stop a person from entering a protected place illegally.

The PAS plan is the latest development in the 12-year-old dispute over the island, which has been under Singapore's administration for more than 150 years.

Both countries agreed in 1981 to resolve the dispute through a formal exchange of documents on their claims to the island, but no exchange has taken place to date.

The Singapore Government has sent repeated reminders to its Malaysian counterpart, urging a speedy exchange of documents which would settle the issue on a legal basis.

Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said earlier this month that he hoped that the two countries could settle the issue through peaceful negotiations.

"If legal evidence showed that the island belonged to Singapore, Malaysia would have nothing more to say," he said.

On Wednesday, the National Front MP for Johor Baru, Mr Mohd Khaled Nordin, himself a hardliner on the issue, said he disapproved of PAS' plan, adding that the party should not put its sectional interests above that of the nation.

Some observers have said that the PAS move was meant to exploit the dispute over the island to embarrass its rival UMNO [United Malays National Organization] which heads the ruling National Front coalition.

Meanwhile, a Singapore MP yesterday took issue with a recent suggestion by the PKM [Singapore Malays National Organisation] president, Mr Sahid Sahooman, that the island should be administered jointly by the two countries to ensure peace and harmony in ASEAN.

Mr Harun Ghani, an MP for Hong Kah GRC [group representation constituency] said in a press statement that as Singapore had evidence to show that the island belonged to the Republic, agreeing to joint management would be tantamount to giving part of the country's territory away.

Joint Naval Exercise With Indonesia Held

BK2305162292 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 22 May 92 p 28

[Text] Four ships from the Singapore and Indonesian navies are conducting a joint naval exercise this week.

A statement from the Defence Ministry yesterday said the exercise, known as a passage exercise, is conducted to strengthen relationships and enhance mutual understanding between the officers and men of the two navies.

The exercise, which ends on Sunday, also provides an opportunity to practise naval procedures, said Mindef. [Minister of Defense].

It will include tactical manoeuvres, seamanship, and weapon firing.

Passage exercises are normally held in between bilateral naval exercises, code-named Eagle, conducted by the navies. The last was held in 1990 and the next is scheduled for later this year.

The four ships taking part in the current exercise, which started on Tuesday, are two fast attack craft from the Indonesian Navy and two missile gun boats from the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).

The commander of the task group for the exercise is Lt-Colonel Simon Ong Hung Eng from the RSN. Lt-Colonel Hermand P. Difman from the Indonesian Navy is the deputy commander.

The Indonesian Navy vessels arrived at Brani Naval Base on Tuesday. A wargaming exercise was conducted at the Navy's tactical training centre at Brani yesterday.

The four ships will leave for the South China Sea today. They will then proceed to Tanjong Bintang (Bintang Island) tomorrow where the exercise will end the following day.

Cambodia

Sihanouk Presides at 10th SNC Meeting 26 May

BK2605123592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] The 10th meeting of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia [SNC] was held at the Khemarin Palace at 0900 this morning in the presence of His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia and chairman of the SNC.

Attending the meeting were His Excellency [H.E.] Dit Munti, minister of information and press and SNC member; H.E. Hor Namhong, minister of foreign affairs of the State of Cambodia [SOC] and SNC member; H.E. Hun Sen, vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee, chairman of the SOC Council of Ministers, and SNC member; H.E. Im Chhunlim, minister of education and SNC member; HRH Prince Norodom Ranariddh, chairman of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party and SNC member; H.E. Son Sann, chairman of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party and SNC member; H.E. Khieu Samphan and H.E. Son Sen, representatives of Democratic Kampuchea and SNC members; and H.E. Ieng Muli.

H.E. Yasushi Akashi, head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, the representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, and the ambassadors and special envoys of friendly countries accredited to Cambodia were also present.

Communique on SNC Meeting Issued

BK2705124692 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1127 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK May 27—Following is the communique of the meeting of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia held here on May 26.

The Supreme National Council met under the high presidency of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and president of the SNC, with the participation of Mr. Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the secretary-general for Cambodia and head of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, at 9 A.M on 26 May in the Khemarin Palace. Also present at the meeting were the representatives of the five permanent members of the Security Council of the United Nations and of Indonesia, cochairman of the Paris conference on Cambodia, as well as a number of observers.

1—State of preparations of the parties for Phase II of the cease-fire.

Statements were made by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Mr. Akashi, Mr. Khieu Samphan, Mr. Tie Banh, Mr. Hun Sen, Mr. Hor Namhong and the Vietnamese ambassador, and by the Russian ambassador in his capacity as coordinator of the permanent five members of the Security Council.

Mr.Akashi stated that one party had so far failed to take a number of steps which had to be taken if the Paris agreements were to be carried out. He listed 12 steps (attached) which had to be taken before Phase II could be implemented on 13 June 1992 as announced by General Sanderson. He requested that all parties inform him by the beginning of the following week of their full compliance with the 12 steps he listed. Otherwise, he said, he would request the secretary-general of the United Nations to ask the Security Council to meet to review the situation.

2—Adoption of the electoral law.

Statements were made by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Mr. Akashi, and by Mr. Son Sann.

Mr. Akashi said he had hoped to adopt the law at this meeting of the SNC, but he had decided to allow a few more days for discussions with the parties. The matter would be raised again at the next SNC meeting. Following the adoption of the law, the SNC could begin discussing on an informal basis the principles of the constitution.

His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk made proposals regarding the holding of presidential elections and other issues relating to the electoral law.

3—Presentation of the draft control of civil administration at levels 2 and 3.

Statements were made by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Mr. Akashi, and by Mr. Hun Sen, Mr. Ieng Muli, Mr. Son Sann, Mr. Khieu Samphan, Mr. Hor Namhong and Mr. Gerard Porcell.

Mr. Akashi presented a paper on the administrative agencies, bodies and offices described in Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Section B of Annex 1 of the Paris agreements. The supervision of control mandated in these two paragraphs was referred to in the paper as level 2 and level 3 of civil administration.

The paper identified a number of sectors suitable for level 2 and level 3 control and submitted recommendations to the SNC accordingly.

The recommendations were generally accepted subject to confirmation by one party of the SNC, which needed more time to study them thoroughly.

4—Other business.

None.

The next meeting of the SNC will take place on 5 June at 9 A.M.

State of preparation of the parties for Phase 2 of the cease-fire.

Steps to be taken by the parties:

1. To permit full and unrestricted freedom of movement to UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] in the zones they control;
2. To refrain from further violations of the cease-fire in Kompong Thom, Kompong Cham and elsewhere;
3. To mark minefields as required and not to undertake renewed mining;
4. To back down from their aggressive postures in Kampot;
5. To cooperate fully with UNTAC in the reconnaissance of the remaining cantonment sites;
6. To provide forthwith all information on the troops, arms and ammunition to be committed to regroupment and cantonment;
7. To refrain from including in their radio broadcasts misinformation about UNTAC activities and intentions;
8. To establish proper commander-to-commander relationships at UNTAC's request;
9. To inform their forces by using all possible means of communication that Phase 2 will begin at 0800 on 13 June, and to tell their forces what to do in order to meet the requirements of phase 2;
10. To ensure that all their troops maintain their present positions pending movement to the designated regroupment areas;
11. To arrange for all their forces, with all their arms, ammunition and equipment, to report to regroupment areas by 27 June, that is, within two weeks after the beginning of Phase 2;
12. To then undertake a phased and balanced demobilization of 70 percent of their forces.

More Khmer Rouge Cease-Fire Violations Alleged

BK2705083092 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1121 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 27 May (SPK)—Some 1,000 Khmer Rouge soldiers have entered the region of Phnum Khlang Son, west of Khlang Yai, Koh Kong Province, to make preparations for attacks against the government position at Kbal Chhay and the provincial administrative seat, according to a source of the Commission for the Coordination of Military Affairs with the United Nations.

In Kompong Cham Province at 1900 on 21 May 25 Khmer Rouge soldiers from Division 785 raided the house of Mr. Kim Naisim, inhabitant of Kaoh Toch Commune, Kang Meas District, and shot him dead on the spot, said the same source, before adding: The commander of Khmer Rouge Division 417 planned an attack against the position of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces located on National Route 12 in the sector of Toek Thla, Prey Chhor District, Kompong Cham Province, before 13 June, the date of the start of Phase Two of the cease-fire when the forces of all Cambodian factions will be placed in cantonment.

In Kompong Thom Province, Khmer Rouge troops of Division 616 with artillery fire support attacked the State of Cambodia position in the sector of Chi-Aok on 23 May.

Khmer Rouge Said To Obstruct Peace Accord

BK2705080092 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1114 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 26 May (SPK)—Up to the present the Khmer Rouge have never been prepared to accept the implementation of Phase Two of the peace accord that will go into effect on 13 June, according to the statement by the head of the military component of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], noted General Ke Kimyan, first deputy defense minister of the State of Cambodia [SOC].

This second phase consists of troop cantonment followed by the 70 percent dissolution of the forces of all Cambodian factions.

During the highest-level meeting of the Mixed Military Working Group [MMWG] on 23 May, Gen. Ke Kimyan said that the Khmer Rouge continued to violate the zones controlled by the SOC and to launch attacks against the positions of government forces and some villages, causing losses in life and property to the local population.

Recently, he said, the Khmer Rouge sent their arms and troops into SOC territory and, worse still, they forced the villagers to transport their weapons and ammunition in utter contempt of human rights.

Violations by the Khmer Rouge have been reported in various provinces, especially Kompong Thom, Kompong Cham, Battambang, Siem Reap, and Preah Vihear, stressed Ke Kimyan, who added: So far, the Khmer Rouge have continued to deny UNTAC officers all free access to their zone, and at every meeting, they have invented the pretext about the presence of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia in order to block the implementation of the peace plan, while the other Cambodian factions have been closely cooperating with UNTAC.

During the meeting, [UNTAC Commander] John Sanderson set great value on the efforts of the Phnom Penh government in preparing for the second phase. He asked the faction of Democratic Kampuchea (the Khmer Rouge) to hand over to UNTAC no later than 30 May all precise evidences about the presence of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia.

A new meeting of the MMWG will be held in the afternoon of 26 May to discuss all problems concerning Phase Two of the cease-fire.

Vigilance Urged for SRV 'Tricks', 'Schemes'

BK2605032192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 25 May 92

[Unattributed commentary: "The Real and Fundamental Stance of the Cambodian People and National Resistance Forces is to Strive to Implement the Paris Agreement Effectively and Correctly in All Aspects"]

[Text] Everyone in the world knows that the 23 October Paris agreement was achieved through tense and arduous struggle waged in all fields for many years between the Cambodian nation and people together with peace-and-justice-loving countries and people across the world on the one side and the Vietnamese aggressors and their allies on the other.

After the signing of the agreement on 23 October 1991, have the Vietnamese aggressors and their allies really implemented the agreement? Their actual deeds both on the battlefield and at the negotiating table have clearly proved that the Vietnamese aggressors and their allies have definitely not implemented the Paris agreement in its essence. On the contrary, they have carried out their (?strategic) schemes which run totally against the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement. This is the reason why it is necessary for the Cambodian people and national resistance forces to always heighten their vigilance in order to check all the tricks and schemes of the Vietnamese aggressors and their allies aimed at opposing and violating the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement.

The real and fundamental stance of the Cambodian people and national resistance forces in the past, at present, and in the future, has not changed and will remain the same: that is, to effectively and correctly implement the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement in all aspects, particularly with regard to the following important points:

1. The total withdrawal of all categories of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia under the supervision of the United Nations and the four Cambodian factions, and the prevention of their return to Cambodia.

2. The disarming and demobilization of the four Cambodian armies in the first stage and then finally 100 percent.

3. The Supreme National Council must be allowed to play its full role as the sole authority ruling Cambodia during the transitional period.

Ranariddh Maintains Veracity of SRV Presence

BK2805080692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Ranariddh, chairman of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party, member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia [SNC], and supreme commander and commander in chief of the National Army of Independent Cambodia, said that his assertion that there still are Vietnamese troops in Cambodia was well founded and that it was not an echo of the Khmer Rouge allegation. The prince made this statement following his return to Phnom Penh after taking part in the recent Nonaligned Movement meeting in Bali, Indonesia, at the head of a Cambodian delegation.

He said that the presence of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia was true and these Vietnamese troops are hiding themselves among more than one million Vietnamese civilians living in Cambodia. He went on to say that he was not afraid to make that assertion because should it be proved wrong he would be prepared to take full responsibility, but he would never consent to letting the Khmer nation perish without a fight.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh attended the SNC meeting in the Khemarin Palace under the august chairmanship of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk to discuss the implementation of the UN peace plan.

Phnom Penh Said To Hide Arms in Battambang

BK2705035092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] According to the deserters of the Phnom Penh army, the Phnom Penh faction has hidden many 130-mm and 122-mm cannons, multiple rocket launchers, and T-54 tanks at Komping Puoy in Bavel District of Battambang Province for use in attacking the Cambodian national resistance forces after the four Cambodian armies are disarmed.

This clearly shows that the Yuon [Vietnamese] aggressors have not implemented the 23 October Paris agreement but have planned to smash the Cambodian national resistance forces. In such a case, how can the war be ended?

The Cambodian people and national resistance forces want all parties—both the Yuon and all Cambodian factions—to implement the 23 October Paris agreement. The Paris agreement does not say that only a particular party must implement it.

Hun Sen's 15 May 'Calumnious' Remarks Clarified

BK2805083792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 28 May 92

[Khuon Khemarin's political commentary: "Clarification of the FUNCINPEC Party"]

[Text] At 1400 on 15 May 1992 His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen made a calumnious statement before the Khmer people in Kompong Cham Province to malign the reputation of His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Ranariddh, son of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk and chairman of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party, and disparage the FUNCINPEC party. Among other things, he claimed that: 1. HRH Prince Norodom Ranariddh has betrayed his own royal father, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk; 2. Pol Pot is the leader of the FUNCINPEC Party; and 3. there are several FUNCINPEC parties, including the party of Prince Chakkrapong and that of Princess Bopha Devi.

We would like to clarify these points as follows: in order to fight against the land-grabbing Yuon [Vietnamese] aggression forces in Cambodia with the party of H.E. Hun Sen acting as their lackey, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk founded FUNCINPEC with himself as the chairman. Later on, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk handed over that lofty position to HRH Prince Norodom Ranariddh, his august representative and secretary general of FUNCINPEC. Afterwards, in the interests of the nation, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk declared that he would stay above all parties and commanded HRH Prince Norodom Ranariddh, his favorite son, to run FUNCINPEC in his place. From 27 to 29 February 1992, the general congress of FUNCINPEC solemnly voted to convert FUNCINPEC into the FUNCINPEC Party and unanimously elected HRH Prince Norodom Ranariddh as its august chairman on 29 February 1992. His royal father Prince Norodom Sihanouk, together with the princess consort, were there to personally congratulate him. The royal father then once again declared that FUNCINPEC was his own product which he presented to his best educated and favorite son, HRH Prince Norodom Ranariddh. Therefore:

1. Since the FUNCINPEC Party is the product of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, for HRH Prince Norodom Ranariddh to betray his own royal father, he must have distanced himself from FUNCINPEC, the product of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk. On the contrary, not only has HRH Prince Norodom Ranariddh carried on the struggle within FUNCINPEC, but he has even announced that when FUNCINPEC wins the elections, he will hand over all ruling powers to HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the most beloved and venerated royal father to him and to all Khmers.

2. Only if you are the chairman of FUNCINPEC can you lead FUNCINPEC; anyone else, be it Pol Pot or any other figure, who is not the FUNCINPEC chairman, cannot lead FUNCINPEC. Otherwise, it would be equally possible to say that Pol Pot is the leader of H.E. Hun Sen's party. Would this be unreasonable? Do not forget that Pol Pot was formerly the boss of H.E. Hun Sen!

3. There is only one FUNCINPEC Party, the one which is the product of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, and which is currently under the leadership of HRH Prince Norodom Ranariddh. As for Prince Chakkrapong and Princess Bopha Devi, they have already resigned from the FUNCINPEC Party and have aligned themselves with the People's Party.

H.E. Hun Sen's demagogic propaganda trick is certainly an insult to the Khmer people's sense of judgment. Moreover, this shows that H.E. Hun Sen is gasping for breath, finding himself at a complete dead end. If H.E. Hun Sen believed that we are really divided and weakened, he would surely be jumping up and down for joy and would deem it unnecessary even to mention the name of FUNCINPEC.

Hun Sen Receives French City Delegation 20 May

BK2405045992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] On the morning of 20 May at the office of the Council of Ministers, His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, held a cordial meeting with a French delegation led by Mr. Jean Pierre Brard, mayor of Montreuil city in France. H.E. Hun Sen warmly welcomed and was very happy to meet with the delegation again in Phnom Penh. He expressed pleasure with the development of relations between Cambodia and France, saying the bonds have turned from being a bamboo bridge into a concrete bridge.

H.E. Hun Sen highly valued the cooperation between France and Cambodia in the fields of investment and culture and France's assistance to Cambodia. On the issue of investment and economic cooperation, he pointed out that Kompong Cham is a vitally important province because it abounds in raw materials that can be useful for French manufacturers. H.E. Hun Sen added that Cambodia had received a good deal of aid from France for national restoration and reconstruction and there are altogether three categories of assistance, namely, assistance given through the United Nations and international organizations, that given by nongovernmental organizations, and assistance granted on the basis of bilateral relations. He also briefed his guests about the current situation in Cambodia.

Mr. Jean Pierre Brard profoundly thanked H.E. Hun Sen for having kindly granted him this audience. He said relations between the two countries are healthy and he had brought along directors and technicians from a number of important French industries who intend to cooperate in the production of construction materials, the setting up of rubber and flour processing factories and electricity plants, and investing in the hotel industry in Cambodia. He also agreed to build processing plants in the country within the bounds of possibility.

Sihanouk Receives UNHCR Representative 21 May

BK2305042792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk—head of state, father of the nation, and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia—granted an audience to Mr. Sergio Viera de Mello, representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] at 0900 on 21 May. Mr. Mi Samedi, deputy health minister and secretary general of the Cambodian Red Cross Committee, was also present.

Mr. Sergio Viera de Mello was warmly welcomed by HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, and the talks were focused on a number of important issues concerning the repatriation of the Cambodian refugees.

Hor Namhong Appeals for 171,000 Tons of Rice

BK2505051292 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0414 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK May 25—Foreign Minister of the State of Cambodia Hor Namhong, appealed Saturday [23 May] for international aid to combat food shortages in four of the country's provinces.

The food shortages were caused by flooding and drought which affected crops in Prey Veng and Kompong Cham in the east, Kampot in the south, and Kandal near Phnom Penh, he said.

The minister said there would be a shortfall of 171,000 tons of rice, adding that normal annual needs were more than 1.4 million tons of rice or equivalent crops.

Prey Veng Province was the hardest hit, with 210,000 people—"a quarter of the population"—facing difficulties, he said.

"The situation could become critical in one to two months in these provinces," he said.

Laws on Information, Press Ministries Viewed

BK2705114192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 16 May 92

[From the "Understand the Law" feature—laws creating the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Information and Press adopted by the National Assembly of the State of Cambodia on 5 April 1992 during an extraordinary session of its first legislature—read by announcer]

[Text] Decree: The Council of State of the State of Cambodia [SOC], in view of the Constitution of the SOC and in view of the law on the organizing of the National Assembly and Council of State of the People's Republic of Kampuchea [PRK] promulgated by Decree 04-Kr dated 10 February 1982, has decided to proclaim the law creating the office of the Ministry of Culture [krasuong vappathoa] adopted by the SOC National Assembly on 5 April 1992 during an extraordinary session of its first legislature.

Issued in Phnom Penh on 2 May 1992
For the Council of State, Chairman—signed and sealed—Heng Samrin.

Law creating the office of the Ministry of Culture:

Article 1: The office of the Ministry of Culture is hereby created. This office is placed under the jurisdiction of the Council of Ministers.

Article 2: The duty of the office of the Ministry of Culture is to lead, control, train, and educate the cultural sector in all its aspects and control; it is to preserve, prevent changes in, and propagate our culture throughout the country, including the work of the arts, motion pictures, video, physical education, sports, museums, historical monumemts, heritages, natural monuments, parks, mores, national traditions, and literature.

Article 3: The office of the Ministry of Culture is led by a minister assisted in his work by deputy ministers.

Article 4: The organization and function of the office of the Ministry of Culture are determined by decisions.

Article 5: All provisions contrary to this law are considered null and void.

This law was adopted by the SOC National Assembly on 5 April 1992 during an extraordinary session of its first legislature.

Phnom Penh, 6 May 1992
For the National Assembly, chairman—signed and sealed—Chea Sim.

Decree: The SOC Council of State, in view of the Constitution of the SOC and in view of the law on the organizing of the National Assembly and Council of State of the PRK promulgated by Decree 04-D dated 10 February 1982, has decided to proclaim the law creating the office of the Ministry of Information and Press [krasuong khousnaka noeng pordarmean] adopted by the SOC National Assembly on 5 April 1992 during an extraordinary session of its first legislature.

Issued in Phnom Penh on 2 May 1992
For the Council of State, Chairman—signed and sealed—Heng Samrin.

Law creating the office of the Ministry of Information and Press:

Article 1: The office of the Ministry of Information and Press is hereby created. This office of the Ministry of Information and Press is placed under the jurisdiction of the Council of Ministers.

Article 2: The duty of the office of the Ministry of Information and Press is to control local and foreign news information networks; publicize and reflect the political, economic, and social life, culture, civilization, and [word indistinct]; control national journalists and cooperate with institutions concerned; control foreign journalists operating in the SOC; control the material and technical bases and means for news transmission in the SOC; and establish contacts with international press organizations and other media in the cause of news dissemination.

Article 3: The General Department of Television and Voice of the Cambodian People Radio Network, the news agency SPK, and the newspaper KAMPUCHEA are placed under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Information and Press.

Article 4: The office of the Ministry of Information and Press is led by a minister assisted in his work by deputy ministers.

Article 5: The organization and function of the office of the Ministry of Information and Press are determined by decisions.

Article 6: All provisions contrary to this law are considered null and void.

This law was adopted by the SOC National Assembly on 5 April 1992 during an extraordinary session of its first legislature.

Phnom Penh, 6 May 1992
For the National Assembly, Chairman—signed and sealed—Chea Sim.

Son Sann Thanks Khieu Samphan for Support

BK2705054492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 26 May 92

["Text" of reply letter from Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and member of the Supreme National Council, to Khieu Samphan, member of the Supreme National Council and head of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea—dated 23 May; read by announcer]

[Text] Phnom Penh, 23 May 1992

To His Excellency Khieu Samphan, member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia and head of the Democratic Kampuchea [DK] party.

Your Excellency: I have received your letter dated 20 May 1992 extending best wishes and support to the second party congress of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF].

On behalf of the KPNLF and in my own name, I am pleased to express profound thanks to your excellency and your colleagues for paying attention to, supporting, and extending best wishes for success to our KPNLF's second congress.

Availing myself of this occasion, I would like to extend best wishes to you and your colleagues for you to enjoy the five blessings of Lord Buddha in contribution to bringing genuine democracy, peace, happiness, and independence to our beloved motherland.

Please, your excellency, accept my warmest fraternal salutations.

Son Sann, president of the KPNLF and member of the SNC from the KPNLF party.

Sihanouk Writes Chea Sim on Helicopter Crash

BK2605124592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 26 May 92

[25 May message from Prince Norodom Sihanouk to CPP Central Committee Chairman Chea Sim—read by announcer]

[Text] Most Beloved and Esteemed Excellency: I and my wife were extremely worried and shocked to learn that the helicopter transporting the distinguished personalities and patriots to Krabau Commune, Kamchay Mea District, to make welcoming preparations for me and my wife this morning had met with an accident. However, my wife and I are relieved to learn that your wife and two daughters have been spared and that other beloved and esteemed personalities who are members of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] are not too seriously injured.

I and my wife would like to express our high appreciation and great praises for the helicopter pilots for their presence of mind and their strong will that made it possible for them to avoid a tragedy. This also goes to the doctors and medical personnel of Calmette Hospital for their skill and expertise in treating and quickly minimizing the injuries of the crash victims.

I and my wife most sincerely wish Madame your wife, your two daughters, Madame Sin Sen, and other CPP personalities prompt recoveries and long lives.

Please accept our deepest affection and best wishes.
25 May 1992
Norodom Sihanouk

Bou Thang Visits People in Ratanakiri Province

BK2705072492 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 6 May 92

[Summary from poor reception] During his working trip in Ratanakiri Province, Mr. Bou Thang, Standing Committee member of the Central Committee of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], visited people, ethnic nationalities, and authorities in Bar Kev District.

Speaking to authorities, people, and monks in Bar Kev District, Mr. Bou Thang highly valued the arduous efforts made by authorities and people in improving their localities.

Concerning our nation's political solution, Mr. Bou Thang stressed the progress in the implementation of the Cambodian peace agreement signed in Paris. He also acclaimed the CPP and Government of the State of Cambodia for their realistic stance and determination in implementing the peace agreement so as to achieve national reconciliation. He also called on all people and local authorities to closely unite and jointly strive to further improve their livelihood and localities.

Indonesia

PRC General Interviewed on Bilateral Relations

BK2705150992 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 18 May 92 pp 1,11

[Excerpts] Beijing, KOMPAS—Excellent relations between Indonesia and the PRC are not only beneficial to the two countries, but also to peace and stability in the Asian-Pacific region. In addition, good relations between the Armed Forces of the two countries are also very important because the Armed Forces are one of the most important institutions in a state.

The above remarks were made by Colonel General Xu Xin, deputy chief of general staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) in an interview with KOMPAS correspondent Rene L. Pattirajawane at the PLA headquarters in Beijing. The Chinese general said if the two countries wish to forge cordial relations, they cannot neglect relations between the their armed forces.

The 71-year-old three-star general, who visited Indonesia last year as a member of PRC President Yang Shangkun's entourage, said: "I met with Indonesian Armed Forces Commander General Try Sutrisno last year. We have invited Gen. Sutrisno and other generals to visit the PRC. We are looking forward to meeting them."

He added that an exchange of visits by personnel of the two Armed Forces will enable them to learn the progress in military affairs made by their respective counterparts. The visits will also promote mutual understanding and friendly bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Gen. Xu Xin described as groundless the view that the PRC constitutes a potential threat in the Asia-Pacific. "Our foreign policy is based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence, the most important of which is mutual respect and noninterference in another country's internal affairs," he said, adding that all countries, whether they are big or small, powerful or weak, rich or poor, must be equal partners, consulting each other and solving problems together. "We oppose the trend of big and powerful countries bullying small and weak ones," Xu Xin said.

He added that the PRC has never sought and will never seek hegemony. "Now our country is still poor and, when our country is affluent, we will never seek hegemony because we want to continue promoting peace," the general said. [passage omitted]

Advocates of Poll Boycott Face Legal Sanctions

BK2705055392 Hong Kong AFP in English 0335 GMT 26 May 92

[By Pascal Mallet]

[Text] Jakarta, May 26 (AFP)—Indonesia's Government has given notice that it is not amused by an opposition-backed call for abstentions in general elections next month, and could act against those that take part.

The government moved swiftly to express its displeasure after supporters of the two legal opposition parties in the special territory of Yogyakarta, central Java, protested against a ban on using motorbikes in the campaign.

Supporters of the Moslem-oriented United Development Party (PPP) and the Christian-nationalist alliance Democratic Party of Indonesia (PDI) began their protests late Thursday.

Home Affairs Minister Rudini went on the offensive Monday, meeting leaders of the two oppostion parties and the ruling Golkar Party and the chairman of the election monitoring committee and speaking to the press afterwards.

"The three parties have agreed to launch campaign rallies without disrupting traffic and public order, to campaign against vote-abstentions, and to respect the schedules for rallies," Rudini said.

Also on Monday, the national news agency ANTARA quoted an "expert" as saying that people who call on others to abstain from voting could be charged with subversion, which carries a maximum sentence of death.

ANTARA quoted Pramu Sutomo, a coordinator of civic sciences for central Java and the special territory of Yogyakarta, as saying that while an individual had the right not to vote, calling on others to do so could be categorized as undermining the authority of the government and therefore subversive.

The moves reflected the two main concerns of the President Suharto's government following the unprecedented Yogyakarta events: to avoid street violence and voter abstentions.

The abstention campaign is the last hope of dissidents, human rights campaigners, and people who have refused to become members of the legal parties. Together they effectively form a group outside the three legal parties, the "Golput" which stands for "white vote."

"We are abstentionists because the little people do not profit from the development" that Indonesia has seen in recent years, said a 19-year-old student.

The Yogyakarta demonstrations began when the military, alarmed by the anti-government riots in Thailand, and fearing copy cat action here, sought to block car rallies that precede and follow electoral meetings in the ancient Javan city.

Witnesses say meetings of the PPP and PDI were targeted more than those of the ruling Golkar.

At least 1,000 people marched towards the Yogyakarta regional parliamentary building waving white flags and chanting slogans calling on voters to abstain in the June 9 general elections.

Members of the PPP and PDI also took down all their posters and flags, green for the PPP and red for the PDI. Mysteriously, white flags of the abstentionist Golput went up everywhere.

"This is the first time that Golput has come out in the open. We hope the abstention rate will pass the eight percent reached in 1987 to 10 or 12 percent this time," said one of the best known dissidents, Johannes Princen.

Princen, a lawyer and human rights activist, said the message was clear: Adding to the existing restrictions acts of intimidation by soldiers and police could lead to an unprecedented abstention tally.

Two students were arrested in Semarang in central Java last week for organizing a rally to call for abstentionism.

Eleven students are being held for questioning after groups of students took to the streets in Yogyakarta Friday to protest strict rules on election campaigning and urged people not to vote.

Indonesian Armed Forces chief Try Sutrisno, himself a potential candidate for the vice-presidency in 1993, has said: "If people don't want to vote, then that is their choice. But they must not influence others. It's an offence and if they go so far as to set up a movement they will clearly be in breach of the law."

Philippines

Joint Military Team To Revise Defense Treaty

HK2705115592 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the U.S. Armed Forces will meet to discuss the revision of the Mutual Defense Treaty. This announcement was made by Defense Secretary Renato de Villa. Here is Josette Olivera with the details:

[Begin Olivera recording] De Villa said that both the Philippines and the United States have given indications that there is a need to review and revise the present Mutual Defense Treaty. However, he said, this was not an easy task since there are still ranking officials in both governments who need to talk on the issue.

According to De Villa, the need to review and revise the treaty comes after the withdrawal of both Subic Naval Base and Clark Air Base from the country. The United States withdrew from Clark Air Base last year when Mt. Pinatubo exploded causing extensive damage to the base. Meanwhile, the United States has also begun its withdrawal from Subic following the Senate's rejection of the new bases treaty allowing the bases to stay for 10 more years. The two U.S. military bases were depended upon to provide security for the Southeast Asian region, including the Philippines.

With the withdrawal of American forces from the country, it was decided that the Mutual Defense Treaty should be revised, especially with regard to the country's external security. [end recording]

Canada Grants $15 Million for Oil Exploration

HK2805020792 Quezon City MALAYA in English 28 May 92 p 2

[Text] The government of Canada has given a $15-million grant for oil and gas exploration in the Philippines and is helping replace obsolete hydroelectric power plant equipment to help ease the energy crisis.

Benno Friesen, Canada's parliamentary secretary of state for external affairs, announced the grant during his call on President Aquino yesterday.

He said negotiations are going for refurbishing a hydropower plant in Naga City.

"It will be a contract with Ontario Hydro of Canada to refurbish the plant at Naga which has some very obsolete equipment and needs new parts to prevent the kind of brownouts the people are experiencing," Friesen said.

Canada and the Philippines are also negotiating an oil and gas exploration agreement that will be financed by the $15-million grant coursed through the Canada International Development Assistance.

New UK Ambassador to Manila Accredited

HK2805020992 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 28 May 92 p 11

[Text] A new British envoy to the Philippines has been extended agrement [word as published] by the Philippine Government, the Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA] announced.

Alan Everard Montgomery has been named to replace current British Ambassador Keith McInnes who will be departing by the end of the month.

During his career in the foreign service, Mr Montgomery has been posted to Dhaka, Ottawa and Jakarta. Before being assigned to Manila, he was head of the British foreign ministry's Migration and Visa Department.

"That might not be a good omen for Filipinos who are planning to travel to England," a DFA wag joked, remarking that "more and more ambassadors are being posted here who have immigration expertise."

Libya Assures on Not Supporting Terrorist Groups

HK2705130492 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Libya has assured the Philippines it will no longer [as heard] support terroristic activities by various groups from different countries and will not meddle in other countries' internal affairs. The promise was contained in a note verbale sent to the Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA] by the Libyan Embassy in Manila. Libyan Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Bashari submitted the same note verbale to the United Nations. In the note verbale, the Libyan Government stated it will respect the so-called [as heard] political aspirations of other countries and will expand its diplomatic relations based on mutual respect and noninterference in internal affairs. Although Libya did not specifically say it will not meddle in the Mindanao problem, the DFA believes it will withdraw its support for the secessionist groups in the southern Philippines.

Police Deny Embassies Asked for Special Security

HK2805061792 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0800 GMT 28 May 92

[Italicized passage in English]

[Text] Gerardo Flores, Philippine National Police director-general, dismissed reports of an alleged request made by foreign embassies in the country for special security. According to Flores, they have just briefed the security officers of the different foreign embassies regarding the actual security situation of foreigners in the country. He said:

[Begin Flores recording] What we did was to call their security officers to Camp Crame and briefed them on the real security situation of all foreign nationals, including those belonging to multinational corporations. [end recording]

Flores also added that they are only taking precautionary measures to prevent incidents like the Barnes kidnapping from happening again.

[Begin Flores recording—in progress] It is only now that we have started to do this again. We forgot all about this after the Barnes case because of the elections. *So we are very much concerned with the elections. We have forgotten all about it. So we called them for a briefing conference.* [end recording]

Aquino: Government Can Thwart Any Coup Attempt

HK2805054792 Quezon City DWDD Armed Forces Radio in Tagalog 0400 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] President Corazon Aquino assured the public that the government, with the help of the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] and the Philippine National Police, is prepared to thwart any attempt by rebel soldiers to disrupt the ongoing electoral process.

In her statement, President Aquino said that it is clear that the precautions being taken by the government have been successful in preventing any attempt by rebel soldiers to disrupt the canvassing of votes. This is the president's reaction to a report that the AFP was able to arrest four enlisted personnel of the Philippine Air Forces who were bribed by the Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance to disrupt the canvassing of votes. She added that the country's situation is well under the control of the military.

Muslim Group Expresses Support for Ramos

HK2805013092 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] The Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] has expressed support for the new administration in working for the country's progress. In a letter by the acting secretary general of the MNLF to the Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats headquarters in Makati, the MNLF is said to believe that administration candidate Fidel Ramos best represents democracy and empowerment for the people. The organization also stressed that Ramos is more aware of Muslim's problems, thus he is more capable of solving the conflicts that separate the Muslims from the society in which they are supposed to live.

Congress Begins Vote Count After Delay

HK2705125492 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Congress legislators have begun the official canvassing of votes for the presidential and vice presidential positions this afternoon after a long debate. There was a delay in the scheduled official canvassing this morning due to many questions on the regulations on the counting of votes. Legislators presented guideline resolutions for the counting of votes today. The Congress also formed an investigation committee to investigate an incident in which the Senate staff and secretariat opened some ballot boxes. The legislators expressed concern that some election returns and certificates of canvass may have been replaced. Senator John Osmena is among the legislators who aired their concern over the incident.

[Begin Osmena recording in English] What these people have done—the secretariat of the Senate—is very unfortunate and very stupid; is to have opened the ballot box and broken the seal and gone into new returns. Now, I am not saying that they have done it, but it is conceivable that you could have replaced that return with another, manufactured return in that process. [end recording]

Unofficial Count To End 29 May

HK2805022792 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] The Media Citizen's Quick Count [MCQC] is scheduled to end its unofficial quick count tomorrow [29 May]. It will also submit tomorrow all its tabulation results beginning 11 May. It is expected that the MCQC could submit to Congress around 80 percent of the total votes throughout the country. The MCQC will also be submitting questionable certificates of canvass not included in the counting.

Eduardo Nuque, MCQC executive director, said that the only way that People's Reform Party candidate Miriam Defensor Santiago can catch up with Ramos is if she gains several hundred thousand votes. There are 4.5 million voters in the National Capital Region, but just over two million votes have been counted. Based on the MCQC's tabulation at around 1830 last night, Ramos is still leading with 4,240,549 votes, while Santiago had 3,167,515.

Ramos Still Leading

HK2805091592 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Former Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos continues to lead in the latest tally issued by the Media Citizens Quick Count [MCQC]. Its 1134 [0334 GMT] report, comprising votes from 131,265 precincts, or 77.05 percent, showed Ramos in the lead with 4,269,851 votes; second is Santiago with 3,373,876; third is Cojuangco with 3,167,789; Mitra is fourth; Imelda Romualdez Marcos is fifth; followed by Salonga and Doy Laurel.

In the vice presidential race, Joseph Estrada leads with 4,986,671; Fernan comes second with 3,600,675; Osmena has 2,701,192; followed by Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Vic Magsaysay, and Eva Estrada Kalaw.

Poll Officials Discuss Election Mechanics

HK2605044392 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0030 GMT 25 May 92

[Interview with Christian Monsod, Commission on Elections chairman, and Ed Nuque, Media Citizen's Quick Count executive director, by Joe Taruc in "Liberty in Action" program—live; italicized passages in English]

[Text] [Taruc] Good morning, everybody. Today, our program and our station are prepared to answer all of our listener's questions regarding the election since our guest this morning is none other than Commission on Elections [Comelec] chairman Christian Monsod. Good morning, Chairman.

[Monsod] Good morning, Joe.

[Taruc] We also have with us the executive director of the Media Citizen's Quick Count [MCQC], Ed Nuque. Good morning, Ed.

[Nuque] Good morning, Joe. Good morning to all our listeners.

[Taruc] Okay, let us start off by asking Chairman Monsod to give us an opening statement with regard to the conduct of elections last 11 May 1992.

[Monsod] As you well know, the only ones who can make an assessment or evaluation of the past election are the people themselves. In my opinion, if we want to find out what really happened, *we have to listen to the experiences of people in the grass roots*—what happened to them, what was the election like in their precincts, town or municipality—*because that is the ultimate judgment.*

[Taruc] Okay, in line with the canvassing which the Congress is scheduled to carry out tomorrow, how many certificates of canvass have the Comelec forwarded to the Office of the Senate President?

[Monsod] *As of Saturday, we had 46 certificates of canvass from provinces and cities.* Out of those 46 certificates of canvass, we have already counted 39 of those on the senatorial level as of last Saturday. *And we expect-* ....[Monsod changes thought] I would also like to add that although there are 1,602 municipalities and cities in the Philippines, *as of Saturday, at 1400 in the afternoon, when we made our last count,* we had completed the canvassing for 1,479 municipalities *or an accomplishment rate of 92.3 percent. And by today, most of this balance of about 123* would be finished. With regard to the other provinces, for example Nueva Ecija, where votes from only one municipality and one ballot box remained to be counted as of last Saturday, canvassing for these provinces will be finished today. So we are expecting to have the results of canvassing in 90 out of the 93 remaining provinces, cities, and municipalities by the end of this week. *So, Congress will have all the certificates of canvass that they will need.*

[Taruc] So you see no delay in the submission of the certificates of canvass?

[Monsod] I see none. Our provincial supervisors who are responsible for bringing back these certificates have, first of all, their own security, a marine and a member of the Philippine National Police [PNP] Special Action Force [SAF]. These are the very same security personnel which they had with them when they went to the provinces to bring the election materials one week before the polls and who have stayed with them for the past three and a half weeks. These are the very same men that they had with them when they returned here. *And when they deliver to the Comelec, they also deliver to the Senate. So what we have, the Senate should have.*

[Taruc] Are the copies safe?

[Monsod] Yes, they are. They are contained in ballot boxes which are padlocked and metal-sealed. And as I said earlier, they also have two *escorts from every province. This is the first time that the forms and the results have been escorted by two, one Marine and one SAF, and in some cases two Marines, both going to and coming back from the provinces.*

[Taruc] Okay.

[Monsod] *We mobilized, all in all, 8,000 special selected troops of the military and the PNP for this purpose, all the way down to the municipality.*

[Taruc] Considering these developments, how long do you think it will take before the names of the new president and vice president are declared?

[Monsod] As you may well know, we at the Comelec *are canvassing copy number two of the same document that the Senate and Congress has; they have copy No. 1.* In our experience of canvassing for the Senate—we are the only ones officially canvassing for the Senate—it takes 30 to 45 minutes to finish a certificate of canvass. *While we are reading 161 names, Congress will only be reading 14 names: seven for president and seven for vice president. So, it should take them around 30 minutes per certificate of canvass. Now, question: What if the certificate is questioned on authenticity or genuineness.* Based on our experience with 39 provinces and cities, *there has been no question on genuineness or on the authenticity of the certificate. And in order to help Congress, we volunteered* to send the chairman, at least, and a member of the Board of Canvassers to Manila when Senate and Congress opens to attest....[Monsod, changes thought] So it is longer....

[Taruc, interrupts] So that questions like: Is this signature...?

[Monsod, interrupts] It will be more of a direct testimony. The persons can personally attest that they executed the document, that their name is there on the certificate, and that they are the ones indicated on the certificate. This makes things easier.

[Taruc] So, unlike what happened in 1986, where the signatures of the canvassers were questioned, you are sending your canvassers back here to Metro Manila.

[Monsod] We have the Senate schedule, they themselves gave us this schedule, and we will send them to the Senate according to this schedule.

Secondly, as to the question why this is different,—*we must remember that this....[Monsod, changes thought] In this election, unlike in 1986 where nobody had a copy, the Comelec can produce its copy—Copy No. 2. The media can produce its copy because media, for the first, time has Copy No. 4. While Copies 5, 6, and 7 go to....*

[Taruc, interrupts] *To the political parties....*

[Monsod, interrupts] *Are with the political parties.* So if there is any query *on whether it is genuine or authentic, all you have to do...*

[Taruc, interrupts] Produce the other copies....

[Monsod, interrupts] *...is to subpoena the other copies and compare, unlike in the previous elections.* That is the safeguard provided by our law.

[Taruc] So what you are saying, Chairman, is that there is no possibility of a difference in the numbers being tabulated by the MCQC and the Congress?

[Monsod] The MCQC is counting the 1,602 municipal certificates of canvass, while the Comelec, Congress, and Senate will be canvassing the 93 provincial and city certificates of canvass. *But those provincial canvasses are a summary of the certificate of canvass from the municipal level.*

[Taruc] *Correct.*

[Monsod] *As a matter of fact, they also include the statement of votes per municipality with each provincial certificate of canvass. So they should not be different. They should be the same, except for some mathematical or editing errors, they should be the same.*

[Taruc] Now let us turn to Ed Nuque, who is the executive director of the MCQC. *As of this very moment Ed,* What percent of the votes has the MCQC tabulated?

[Nuque] Well, we have already tabulated around 70 percent of the votes from the various precincts *and, in terms of the certificates of canvass, we already have in our possession 1,308 certificates of canvass.* And we have asked the Comelec for more time to collect all the certificates of canvass so we can present the nation with a 100-percent count, including those which remain uncounted due to various reasons.

[Taruc] In other words, you are really determined to finish with your tabulations.

[Nuque] That is correct. If you think about it....

[Taruc, interrupts] So the reports and speculation going around in the past few days about the possibility of you stopping at a certain point are untrue?

[Nuque] No, they are not true, Joe. Even during our hearings before the election, we agreed that we will finish counting 100 percent of the votes.

[Taruc] Chairman, a number of people have been asking: Why was there a difference in the number of votes between the presidency and the vice presidency?

[Monsod] As you know, we have to look at *the behavior of the electorate since 1946.* I think our critics should first research before they make any comments. *Since 1946, there has been more votes for president than for vice president. In 1946 for example, ten percent more votes for president than vice president. In 1949, there were 4.85 percent more votes for president than vice president. In 1953, 6 percent; 1957, 6.33 percent; 1961, 1.32 percent; 1965, 3 percent; and in 1969, 1.13 percent.* That is an average of about 2.85 percent. *Over the years, the average number of people who voted for president but did not vote for vice president.* [sentence as heard] *Now, second. Not everybody who came to vote voted even for president.* This ranges from 1.7 percent to 4.8 percents.

[Taruc] This is beginning 1946?

[Monsod] Those are your voters in 1946. *In other words,* there were people who did not vote for president but voted in the elections. *So it is not correct for people to say that just because there are more votes for president than vice president, therefore there was massive fraud. And just because there were people who did not vote for president but came to vote on election day....[Monsod, changes thought] In other words, the number of ballots cast should be higher than the number of voters who voted for president. There are those who did not vote, there are the stray votes, there are invalid ballots. It does not automatically mean that a massive fraud has occurred when and if there is a difference between these two numbers.*

[Taruc] I think that the question after this should be: Why is it that the difference in the number of votes between the president and the vice president is around 11 to 12 percent?

[Monsod] *You know it is possible,* because we still do not have certificates at this moment. *I am sure that this can be explained by statistics. But you know, one of the problems probably in this elections is that people were a little undecided on who to vote for.* For the vice presidency, in particular, a number of the candidates were unheard of and it is possible that the people only voted for president. And it is running about that much, around 1 million more for president than for vice president. All I am saying is that this is perfectly explainable by voter behavior; that there are people who do not vote for vice president but vote for president. But if [word indistinct] the case, then this is massive fraud.

[Taruc] Could it have been possible that when the people cast their votes for a certain president, they believed that their votes would also be counted for that candidate's running mate?

[Monsod] As you know, there was a measure during martial law which stated in the Omnibus Election Code that when one voted for a president and left the vice presidential slot blank, it was assumed that the vice president voted for was from the same party. *But as you said, this has already been superseded by the new Constitution. It does not allow block voting and you must vote for a vice president for it to be voted.* Now, Senator Tolentino questioned this rule. *He went to the Supreme Court recently, in the last week of April, contesting the position of the Comelec.* Tolentino opposed this provision and said that if it were blank, the running mate of the president should receive the latter's vote. We told him that this was no longer the case, that this had already repealed by the new Constitution.

On 5 May 1992, about two weeks ago, the Supreme Court upheld the petition of the Comelec. So the winning interpretation on this matter is that of the Comelec's. *This means* *that a blank on vice president is not [word indistinct]. You cannot count that in favor of the president.*

I think there were some people who pretended to be experts on this matter who were able to fool people into thinking that these votes were counted. And maybe some of our voters did believe them. *So it is possible also that this happened. But this has been decided already by the Supreme Court and that is that the decision of the Supreme Court upholds the interpretation of the Comelec.*

[Taruc] Let us now ask Ed Nuque something about the MCQC. As you know, a number of people have expressed doubts on how the MCQC tabulates the certificates of canvass, partial tally forms, or [word indistinct] which you receive. How are you set up, Ed? Is this simply a group of line computers? Are there no areas or places at the MCQC which are restricted from the media?

[Nuque] Well, as our colleagues in media can attest, the set up in Greenhills is what you would call an open system. You can see all of the *line of charts.* There are no walls.

[Taruc] No dividers?

[Nuque] Yes. Although there was one during our first visit from media, they were removed on orders of Chairman Lopez, so that there is *absolute transparency.*

There are actually two groups there. One is in charge of regional and feed operations. The other is the systems group. With regards to processing, it is very easy to check this because we process them as the documents arrive. And these documents, including the certificates of canvass, are only about 1,602.

[Taruc] So what comes in first is also the first one to go out?

[Nuque] That is correct. That is the general policy, provided that the transmissions comply with the *safety features and information acceptable* to our computers.

[Taruc] Ed, there are some who say that in your set-up at the MCQC, there is a particular area which is guarded by the Marines and restricted to all media men.

[Nuque] We have been together since 11 May and there has never been a restricted area.

[Taruc] So there is no restricted area?

[Nuque] None. With regards to the Marine guards, maybe they were referring to the time when we had a security alert.

[Taruc] Was it during the vigil?

[Nuque] No, it was not. In fact, we were even grateful that they were praying for us. This happened during earlier days when there were security threats like threats of an attack and others of the sort. So security details were requested from Camp Crame.

[Taruc] Do you expect a large discrepancy between your count and the Comelec's, let us say in the senatorial race? Would there be a difference in the MCQC's count and the Comelec's count with regard to the senatorial election.

[Nuque] There should not be any difference since we only have one source—a source with seven copies. So no matter how we calculate it, the results should be the same.

[Taruc] But there might still be a discrepancy considering that you are using the partial tally forms and [word indistinct], while the Comelec uses the certificates of canvass.

[Nuque] No. The ultimate basis or [word indistinct] is the certificate of canvass. The partial tally forms and [word indistinct] were simply conveniences that were given to us so that we could report during the initial period. When we went to the Comelec for accreditation, we told them that it would take too long to report if we only relied on the certificates of canvass. And if this happened, the people might doubt us since the very essence of a quick count is to come up with the results as soon as possible.

[Taruc] Okay. Chairman Monsod, during election day, as you will know especially with the many complaints that flooded your office, a number of voting precincts were not able to open immediately and some people were not even able to vote. How many complaints did you actually receive? *Was that all over the Philippines?* Or was it isolated only to the Metropolitan Manila area?

[Monsod] You know, there are people who would say that if this happened in Metro Manila, how much more so in the provinces. *Well, actually it is the opposite.* With the provinces, we had sent our forms a week in advance. In Metro Manila, we sent them three days before the polls, *precisely because they were nearer to Metro Manila.* Those districts in Metro Manila which encountered problems were Quezon City, Mandaluyong, some parts of Caloocan, and some parts of Makati. In other places, the delay was only around 30 minutes to one hour. This was because the teachers needed to pick up the election materials from the municipal building and there were transportation problems. *But, all in all, all over the country the main complaint was in Metro Manila only.* In the case of Mandaluyong, the fault in distribution lies with the municipal treasurer. The Comelec turned over the election materials to the municipal treaurer ahead of time but he only began to distribute the materials at around 0400 on the morning of 11 May. This should not have been the case. When you have 900 precincts, the queuing system alone will cause problems. *In other places, they had already begun distributing on Sunday [10 May].*

[Taruc] *The day before?*

[Monsod] *The day before.* In those areas, there were no problems except for the minor hitches on election day of about half an hour to an hour. In Quezon City....

[Taruc, interrupts] Before we move on from Mandaluyong, Chairman, there was news at that time that 30 ballot boxes were loaded on to dump trucks. Can you give us some details on this?

[Monsod] We have already explained this before. Actually it was the Comelec who carried this out. We even had escorts then. The candidates there were just very jumpy. They immediately assumed that it was....[Monsod, changes thought] They even deflated the tires of the truck, thus furthering our delay. As I told them earlier, before they cry out and complain, they should first take a look at the contents of the ballot boxes that they are referring to. *As a matter of fact,* when we inspected the contents of these ballot boxes, the contents were stubs from 1986 and 1987. This is expected since these were old ballot boxes and maybe the old municipal inspector was too lazy to clean them out. *But anyway,* these ballot boxes were emptied, turned upside down, before the voting started.

As for those who claimed to have intercepted this truck, they were also being *intellectually dishonest.* They should have reported that what they saw in those ballot boxes were actually stubs from the 1986 and 1987 elections. They only said that they were able to uncover massive fraud and anomalies in the elections. They should have also been been truthful to the public. We already explained this matter. It is no longer being brought up and these people are no longer citing this incident since they know the truth behind the matter.

[Taruc] Have you also been receiving reports about people being unable to vote and the dead, and those in Saudi Arabia, being able to vote?

[Monsod] [Five-second break in reception] You know, *even before the registration we already ran many publicity advertisements informing people of registration. One of the things we said was that first-time voters during the barangay election must register again. Because the registration during the barangay election is not as rigid as in a normal election in 1987 and 1988. And on election day, and the day after, I saw many young people saying:* Why was my name removed from the list when I voted during the barangay elections? *But according to instructions, these names should really be removed since they have to re-register. Unfortunately, this did not happen in some cases.*

In the 1987 registration *that happened after December 1987, we know that there was some padding of votes by some registrars there.* So we supplied the political parties with copies of our analysis and, our analysis being transparent, it showed *that there are 7,762 barangays which appear to have excess registration relative to their total population.* And we asked these political parties to help us out. We only have 5,500 people nationwide and we told them that we could not handle this alone. We asked them to look over the report and, if possible, sample some of the registrants so that we can weed out the illegal registrants *because it is clear that there was some padding.*

Now, in areas where padding was really obvious, like in Quezon City, Manila, San Juan, Makati, Lanao, and even in Olongapo City, we had to have general registration. *But we cannot have general registration nationwide. So we sampled only the more notorious ones,* where it was obvious that there was padding. This is in order to clean up the voter's list. *But it is true that there are some* registrants that....[Monsod, changes thought] Our safeguard against these kind of people is the indelible ink. *Now, I don't know what your experience is but, generally, the experience seems to be that the indelible ink works.* It is because we doubled the silver nitrate from three and a half percent to seven percent. That is why some people are complaining that they cannot remove the indelible ink even after two or three days.

I would now like to ask our countrymen what their experiences are with regard to the indelible ink? Did it help? We believe that this has greatly helped in discouraging flying voters *because in many places, it apparently worked.*

[Taruc] Chairman, how many of the losing candidates have complained about the small number of voters who were able to vote in their places.

[Monsod] There are areas with low turnout. What we said is that *the preliminary estimate was between 70 and 90 percent.* And somehow the media said it was 85. We never said that was the average nationwide but these were the reports to us by our regional offices during the election day, *which was only seven out of 13 regions. How can we generalize.* But we said that in these seven regions, 70 percent to 90 percent of voter turnout has already been reported. *It is possible that there are areas which had 70. There are areas with over 80 percent. We will know this after a month or two when we get all the units of voting in each precinct.* These are placed in the ballot boxes which are sealed. Then we open these and analyze the....[Monsod changes thought] Let me give you an example. In Nueva Ecija, the son of a congressional candidate came to us claiming massive fraud saying that only 60 percent of voters voted. Of course, it is possible but that has to be analyzed. We can only analyze one town *because we cannot do everything. You pick the town that you want.* He said, Lupao.

[Taruc] *One of nine towns?*

[Monsod] *One of seven.* We sent a task force there last week, a Comelec Task Force. Then we summoned Bishop Tarce, head of the (Citizens Arm Mahal [Love] 92), the provincial commander, and the registrar. We gave them the authority to analyze what happened to the voters list. *The facts are these: There were about 15,000 voters and about 600 voters were disqualified for one reason or another because they were barangay or what. [sentence as heard]. Of the 14,000 [figure as heard] voters who were there, about 10,800 voted. So if you take the percentage, there was 75 percent turnout not 60. So I told those who complained that we will show them the records but they never came back. We have the records there. We have the voters list. But the turnout rate in Lupao was not 60 percent but 75.*

[Taruc] We know that you are still investigating how the candidate lost but we will not ask for the details.

[Monsod] *We also try to find out, when we can, the truth surrounding every incident. We have some reports but I don't think that this is the place to divulge that because it is the candidate who is entitled to that information. Besides it is only a report which cannot be totally verified and it is not fair also to disclose that.* We may just tell the candidate that an investigation on why he lost is going on.

[Taruc] Chairman, if I am not mistaken, after the election you dispatched Comelec commissioners to resolve problems right there and then. If you had not done this, maybe we would be facing a bigger problem now.

[Monsod] *We were facing about, at each time, about 40 pockets of so-called people's power. It is not really people's power but fortunately our commissioners are diligent. Four helicopters were made available for us and commissioners went to the problem areas one at at time. In the provinces where some areas could not be immediately reached, we authorized our regional directors together with the local nongovernment organizations, local bishop, and the military commander of the area to act as special action teams to immediately resolve the problem. This happened all over the country. There were about 40 isolated cases of pockets of people power. We were able to solve 38, two were left unsolved, these are Magalang, Pampanga and Panganiban, Camarines Norte. But both of these have been solved already.* In Magalang, the Nationalist People's Coalition candidate is winning. Former Solicitor General Mendoza talked to us about the safeguards there. So we sent fraud control there. The same process took place in Panganiban. Those who destroyed ballot boxes may have thought they succeeded and *were moving for failure of elections. But they do not know that there are seven copies of the election returns. Therefore, we immediately secured the municipal judge's copy, which is sealed. So, all ballots in all precincts in Panganiban are preserved at the municipal judge's office and we are proceeding with the canvassing there, under security measures of course. The plan of those who wished to destroy the election votes failed.*

[Taruc] The MCQC was observed to have counted first votes coming from the bailiwick of former Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos and his opponents' bailiwick like Metro Manila came last. How do you explain this?

[Nuque] That is not true because we count all the ballots that arrive. We log the time for all documents as they arrive, so these are easily audited. Because if there is a time log, it is easy to....

[Taruc, interrupts] How many have you tabulated so far in Metro Manila?

[Nuque] Well, there are now 50 precincts which have reported. What was funny with this quick count is that the first transmission to arrive came from the provinces, small municipalities.

[Monsod] Under Republic Act 7168, the political parties requested copies of the election returns and the certificates of canvass. Comelec supported the political parties in this regard. Congress permitted the certificates of canvass but not the copy of the election returns allegedly because there are only seven copies and not all could be given a copy. So they wanted to just give the municipal treasurer a copy so he can make an advance tally and also give the municipal judge a sealed copy. But the parties have copies of the certificates of canvass at all levels—municipal, city, and provincial. We have already finished 39 provinces and cities in the canvassing for senators. Last week, only one Oriental Mindoro political party could produce its copy of the certificate of canvass. Most parties did not have copies. We were wondering why because this privelege was given them to protect their interests. They all apologized saying there had been delays in picking them up, the national organization was inefficient, etc. None were able to present their copy except that one instance. We said nothing. We allowed them to have two watchers for their protection but, after awhile, no one was attending anymore. Now they blame the system. But it is them to blame, their organizations are inefficient and they are incompetent even in using their own protection.

[Taruc] We have many questions here for our two guests. From Noli Cruz of Paranaque: Do you think the election really reflected the true feelings of the Filipinos?

[Monsod] We have already explained that. Perhaps it is true that some were not able to vote but let us see what the turnout rate will be. *There are areas that are feared to have this. But Paranaque and Las Pinas are areas where there was really padding of votes.* The ratio of voters to population was about 66 percent in Paranaue which is high. Maybe some were not able to vote there because of the indellible ink. *To those legitimate voters who were not able to vote, we do apologize to them.*

[Taruc] Mrs. De Leon of Las Pinas: What is your reaction to Miriam Santiago's fasting?

[Monsod] *This is a democratic country and everybody has the right to express his grievance, if he thinks that there is a grievance and an injustice has been done. We are attending to her complaints, like the incident in Urdaneta, Pangasinan, which is the specific case she gave us. We have summoned the registrars and board of election inspectors and we hope that we can earn her trust and we believe that Miriam Santiago is a leader who still has a future in this country and can help the people and we hope that she reconsiders.*

[Taruc] Mrs. Lawa of De La Salle University: *Ed Nuque said there is no off-limits in the gym. This is not true. There is a room at the second floor office of the Student Council of the High School Department which is full of computers and is off limits.*

[Nuque] Why doesn't she come here right now as I am in the station, bring some media and political parties representatives and go into this so-called room there.

[Taruc] Sonny Manuel of Gapan: Is it standard operating procedure for Comelec to sign an empty election return with the board of election inspector's thumb mark? Many blank election returns were seen in the Comelec in Gapan, specifically in precinct 45-A. The returns were signed by a teacher and a thumb mark was affixed but there were no entries. Is it possible to request for the transfer of canvassing from Gapan to the Comelec, Manila.

[Monsod] We have asked for the opening of the ballot boxes because there was a question on the election return. And in the case of [words indistinct]. We have two election returns, one local and one national. All in all they have nine pages. In the national, names were printed on the return while the local is left blank. The reason why there are nine pages is in case there are many councillors whose [words indistinct] But just in case there was an anomaly there, we allowed the ballot box to be opened to enable us to see whether there really was any anomaly.

[Taruc] Mr. Ed Nuque, your parting words for our listeners please.

[Nuque] Well, I thank you Joe for this opportunity. What I can say is to finish the counting within this week. From what I see, there is no basis for the accusations of massive fraud because, to hand, we already have 1,308 official documents of the certificate of canvass and we cannot see any basis for such.

[Taruc] Here is the Comelec chairman, Christian Monsod.

[Monsod] *My dear friends. These past weeks, you have shown your confidence to us. For our part, we believe in the people's will. Many have criticized us. Many candidates have lost. We hope you don't get carried away with these accusations. Many people predicted this will be the bloodiest election in our history; that there will be total chaos; the indelible ink will not work; that we can not rely on the Comelec and Congress. For my part, let us give the Congress credit. It is a responsible body and it will do its job. The media will be watching them too.* Our democracy is very beautiful in that *the media is very much a part of the process in this election.* Maybe we are forgetting the M in the MCQC stands for media. So, the claim that we stopped the media count is not true. On 13 May, *we met with the media and asked them how much data did they have.* They said they only had enough to last through the night of 13 May and *will finish 14 May. We did not cut media. That is by agreement with them. They said that MCQC is media anyway and will just help it. Now, as far as the Nationalist People's Coalition [NPC] is concerned, they said they also had their quick count like the Struggle of Filipino Democrats.* We said that is fine. If you like to publish that, we have no objection under one condition—*you must agree to the same condition that we imposed on MCQC, that there must be a panel of auditors of all political parties that can look at your system and look at your figures and audit them to retain transparency.* What the NPC said was: *No thank you. We will just keep our figures to ourselves. That is the truth.* Some NPC members confused the public by suggesting that we stopped them from publishing. *That is not true. Even today, if the NPC wants to publish its figures the Comelec has no objection provided that they allow the panel of auditors—the same ones that are now auditing the MCQC and all the political parties—then there is no problem as long as the rule of transparency is observed.*

Thailand

Government Parties Name Sombun Rahong as Premier

BK2705143092 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1300 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Sano Thianthong, deputy leader of the Chat Thai Party, reported to newsmen that the five government parties had held a discussion and agreed to nominate Air Chief Marshal Sombun Rahong, leader of the Chat Thai party, as prime minister. The five parties have already submitted Sombun's name to the speaker of the House of Representatives at 1600 today.

Banhan Sinlapa-acha, secretary general of the Chat Thai Party, sais that the five coalition parties remain firmly united to form a government. He said the coalition of parties which commands a majority in the parliament has legitimacy in forming the government, but the political parties with minority votes do not.

Further on Sombun Nomination

BK2805014392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 May 92 pp A1-2

[Text] The five government parties plus the independent single- member Puangchon Chaothai Party yesterday submitted the nomination of Chat Thai leader ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sombun Rahong as prime minister designate to House Speaker Athit Urairat.

The nomination was submitted at about 4 pm at Parliament, said deputy Chat Thai leader Sano Thianthong, who added that the prime minister-designate had invited former premier Gen Chatchai Chunhawan to serve as chairman of the PM's advisory board.

The move, he said, should improve the image of the ruling coalition which has come under fire for supporting Gen Suchinda Khraprayun as prime minister and is facing a public call to share responsibility over the military suppression of pro-democracy protesters last week.

He said no outsiders will be appointed to the new Cabinet.

But Athit, who will have to seek permission for an audience with His Majesty the King so he could present the nomination for royal approval, said he had not received the nomination as of yesterday.

Four parties in the opposition bloc—New Aspiration [NAP], Democrat, Phalang Tham and Solidarity—yesterday formally agreed to nominate NAP leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut to contest with Sombun for the premiership.

The nomination by Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai, Social Action, Prachakon Thai, Ratsadon and Puangchon Chaothai came after their leaders cut a deal to support the Chat Thai leader as prime minister at a secret meeting on Tuesday.

The core members of the five government parties also agreed to place the defence portfolios under Sombun and give the crucial interior post to Narong Wongwan, who leads Sammakkhi Tham, the largest party.

Under the deal, the leading politicians of the caretaker administration also agreed that Social Action Party [SAP] leader Montri Phongphanit would replace Chat Thai secretary general Banhan Sinlapa-acha as comunications minister. Banhan, meanwhile, will be given the key finance portfolios, succeeding outgoing non-partisan minister Suthi Singsaneh.

The defence, interior and finance portfolios are held by Suchinda's men who will have to be replaced as a result of his resignation forced by the events of last week when scores died and hundreds were injured in the military crackdown on pro-democracy protesters.

At the meeting over a meal at an undisclosed hotel, the core members of the five government parties also agreed that the party would welcome defectors from the opposition. The Democrat Party has been intensely wooed to cross the political line to the government camp which has only a slim majority in the House.

The five-party coalition has come under fire for supporting Suchinda as prime minister, and is facing public demand to share responsibility for the bloody crackdown.

The core members present at the discussion were Samakkhi Tham leader Narong, acting Industry Minister Somphong Amonwiwat the deputy leader, Samakkhi Tham secretary general Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Thiti Nakhonthap, Chat Thai leader and acting deputy premier Sombun, Chat Thai secretary general Banhan Sinlapa-acha, who is now caretaker communications minister, deputy leader and acting deputy communications minister Sanoh Thianthong, SAP leader and acting deputy premier Montri, and ranking representatives from Prachakon Thai and Ratsadon parties.

The Democrats have rejected overtures by the five government parties. They have insisted they cannot fail the public's confidence in the party by joining an administration that is closely identified with the military and which may include politicians ruled unusually rich by the now defenct Assets Investigation Committee which was set up by Suchinda and his military colleagues in the dissolved National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC].

On Feb 23 last year, the NPKC seized power from the second Chatchai government which comprised the same political groups as in the Suchinda Cabinet.

If none of the opposition parties switch over to the government camp, informed sources said, the five parties would make only minimal changes to the Suchinda Cabinet line-up.

Under the tentative agreement, the portfolios will be shared as follows; the prime ministerial post, defence, foreign affairs, education, university affairs and finance will go to Chat Thai; interior, commerce, industry, agriculture, and justice to Samakkhi Tham; and communications, public health and science, technology and energy to SAP.

Prachakon Thai and Ratsadon Cabinet members—Samak Suntharawet as deputy prime minister, Warothai Pinyasat as deputy agriculture minister and Chaiyapak Siriwat as PM's Office minister—will retain their caretaker posts.

Chat Thai sources, meanwhile, said Sombun as prime minister- designate had won consent from core party members for his proposal that former premier Gen Chatchai Chunhawan and party advisory chairman Pol Gen Praman Adireksan would be invited to serve as prime minister's advisers.

However, Chat Thai later agreed that Chatchai, who was ousted as prime minister by Suchinda's military group in the Feb 23 coup, should serve as chairman of the PM's advisory board.

It was still unclear yesterday whether Praman would be given any advisory post in the new politician-dominated administration.

The coalition parties decided to go ahead with the formation of the new government despite opposition from the pro-democracy movement because their leaders felt that the majority of the public had been placated by Suchinda's resignation and the reforms to the Constitution to reduce military influence in national politics, sources in the parties said.

Pro-democracy groups say the government parties should take the blame for the bloodbath last week and therefore lose legitimacy to form the new government. Politicians in the caretaker Cabinet, however, argue that the prime minister rarely consulted with them over the military measures applied to handle demonstrators.

Some were also critical of the outgoing premier's heavy-handed military measures for which they said political solutions should have been used.

SAP, Chat Thai and Samakkhi Tham held separate meetings yesterday to endorse the mandate given their core members in the nomination of the new prime minister and the subsequent establishment of the new Cabinet.

After the meeting of SAP members yesterday, party spokesman Piyanat Watcharapon confirmed reports that the Opposition had tried to woo the party's defection so the camp could muster enough House support to push NAP leader Chawalit to the premiership.

But he said the SAP was bothered by the fact that the Opposition publicly rapped the party while privately making the overture.

Piyanat, who is acting PM's Office minister in charge of the Public Relations Department, contended that the previous government was not a failure.

The blame, he said, should be placed on the military approach to handling the demonstration which should have been resolved by political means.

He disagreed with the proposal, raised by acting Deputy Premier Michai Ruchuphan that the House be dissolved to break what he saw as a political impasse.

"Dissolving the House now won't help improve the political climate and in fact it would set a bad precedent because a caretaker government should not do so," he contended.

Chat Thai MP Phongphon Adireksan, who is also caretaker foreign minister, said that dissolving the House under the present political circumstances would not be healthy.

However, he said, the House could be dissolved after the new government had taken steps to heal the wounds left by the bloody military crackdown.

The two politicians raised strong reservations over House Speaker Athit's proposal that a national government comprising coalition and opposition parties be set up to undertake the urgent task of uniting the nation before calling a snap general election.

"Such a national government would not have the checks and balances provided by the Opposition," argued Phiyanat.

Phongphon said that the concept had been vaguely defined.

Speaking after the meeting of Samakkhi Tham leaders, Narong denied the party had ever discussed the possibility of nominating party advisory chairman Gen Athit Kamlang-ek as prime minister.

Samakkhi Tham MP Suwat Liptapanlop, who reportedly supported Athit's nomination, denied there was any rift over the nomination issue.

He said dissolving the House was out of the question now because such a move would kill the constitutional amendments which are set to clear the final hurdle on June 10.

After the third and final reading of the amendments, he said, the House dissolution as well as other proposals could come up for consideration.

He added that his statement did not imply that the new government would initiate the move after the promulgation of the constitutional amendments.

Athit, meanwhile, clarified that he did not intend to propose that all 11 parties would form the national government, a move which would run counter to the checks-and-balances principle.

"What I sugested was that the parties should not draw a clear line between themselves and that they should go back to square one in negotiating among themselves on the formation of the new government, disregarding the question of which side they are on," he said.

Democracy Group Warns New Crisis Possible

BK2805045892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0441 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Bangkok May 28 (AFP)—A pro-democracy group which organised last week's massive anti-government demonstrations warned Thursday that another crisis would develop if Thailand's five pro-military parties were allowed to form a new government.

The Democracy Confederation, a grouping of pro-democracy activists, students and labour leaders, said in an open letter to the House speaker that the five pro-military parties which made up the government of former Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun were responsible for last week's bloodshed.

According to official figures, 48 people were killed and some 600 injured when the protests turned violent and troops opened fire on the crowds. Over 800 are officially listed as missing.

The five parties nominated Air Chief Marshal Sombun Rahong, leader of the Chat Thai Party, as prime minister on Wednesday.

The Democracy Confederation asked House Speaker Athit Urairat not to submit Sombun's name to Thailand's constitutional monarch for royal approval as prime minister.

They said another crisis would develop if the five were allowed to form a government because they were responsible for last week's unrest and were unacceptable to the people.

The democracy group and opposition politicians have blamed the five parties for nominating unelected Suchinda in the first place, and then for trying to back out of an agreement to introduce amendments to the Constitution reducing the military's political power.

The coalition's backsliding on the agreement to introduce the amendments led to a renewal of the protests last week.

Coalition Parties Urged To 'Step Aside'

BK2705032992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 May 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Let Opposition Pave Way to New Elections"]

[Text] The conspicuous absence of any objection by the five coalition parties to the use of brute force during the darkest days in Thai history last week can only be interpreted as being silent implied consent to the crime perpetrated against fellow countrymen. Like a man who watches in dead silence and without any remorse as his colleague coldbloodedly kills another, they stood idly by while army troops mercilessly crushed pro-democracy demonstrators and virtually transformed Ratchadamnoen Avenue into a killing field. In other words, the whole government bears as much responsibility for the carnage as Gen Suchinda Khraprayun and the generals who ordered the bloody suppression.

Being silent, particularly at a crucial moment when an utterance of dissent could have demonstrated pangs of conscience or might even have changed the course of events, makes the entire cabinet look like a passive participant in the heinous crime in the eyes of many people. Because of this insensitivity, the five coalition parties which made up the administration of Gen Suchinda do not have the legitimacy and moral grounds to form a new government even though they command the majority of votes in the House of Representatives.

The about-face of the five parties in the Parliament which made possible the smooth sailing of constitutional amendments in the first and second readings on Monday came as no surprise. It was, in fact, a tactical shift prompted solely by their political instincts for survival in the face of strong political winds favouring the pro-democracy movement. This change of heart does not warrant any commendation. Had they been sincere about constitutional amendments from the beginning and had not broken the gentlemen's agreement reached with the Opposition at the mediation of the House Speaker well over a week ago, there would not have been a protest which led to a virtual breakdown of mutual trust between the Government on one side and the Opposition as well as the people on the other. Moreover, the country would not have plunged deeper into political turmoil and exploded into an ugly outburst of senseless slaughter of innocent people.

Even if the coalition parties had been successful in forming a government almost entirely made up of elected MPs, they would have found it almost impossible to clean their image which became badly tainted because of their association with and blind support for Gen Suchinda until his last days in office. To win over the trust and confidence of the public will be even harder. This is not to mention the credibility problem of some key party members, tainted by corruption and drug dealing accusations.

Having shown little respect for the democratic aspirations of the people in the past few weeks, the five government parties should seize the opportunity now to demonstrate their political spirit by stepping aside to allow the Opposition to take the lead in forming the new government—at least in this temporary transitional period when legitimacy on both political and moral grounds should take precedence. Although not as stable because of the shortage of majority support in the House, a government of the minority is not a rarity and would be both a democratic and favourable choice, especially given the present political mood which cleary favours legitimacy and a high moral ground.

With so much at stake, especially in regard to the ecomomy, the country cannot afford indefinite political instability. Nor can it afford a new government every few months. But with the Opposition and coalition parties squaring off in an uncompromising manner, the country seems to be caught in yet another impasse with prospects for prolonged political stability very dim.

For the longer-term good of the country and to allow the people an opportunity to choose the representatives who will be more responsive to their democratic feelings and who will not betray them afterward as some did, the present Parliament should be dissolved by whichever government comes into office in the coming days so that new elections can be held as part of a major cleansing process.

Dailies View Problems in Forming New Government

BK2705142592

[Editorial Report] Three Thai-language dailies, THAI RAT, SIAM RAT, and NAEO NA, on 27 May carry editorials on the move by political parties to form a new government following General Suchinda Khraprayun's resignation and the passage of amendments to the Constitution in the first and second readings by the parliament.

THAI RAT's 600-word editorial on page 3, entitled: "Such a Pity the House Was Not Dissolved," says Gen. Suchinda should have dissolved the parliament before announcing his resignation. The editorial reviews political developments which led to the bloody suppression of pro-democracy demonstrators and blames it on the five-party coalition, which kept changing its stance each time it had the opportunity to cling to power for as long as possible. The parties finally agreed to the amendments only because of strong pressure from the people and a change in the situation. "It is a pity—Gen. Suchinda should have dissolved the parliament before announcing his resignation since that would have allowed us to get rid of the old batch of politicians and elect a new batch of representatives into the parliament, those who do not betray democratic principles. This would also have helped in shaping a new Constitution for the country as political parties will have to focus on Constitution amendments as issues for their election campaigning. That would have allowed us to pave the way for full democracy as in England," the paper says.

SIAM RAT's 600-word editorial on page 3, entitled: "New Government After Constitution Amendment," says the five-party coalition should cease its function with the resignation of Gen. Suchinda. It is not entitled to form a new government because the amendments to the Constitution have brought about new conditions. Besides, there has been opposition to the parties from academics, students, and people who hold them responsible for the tragic events of recent days. "Had the five parties agreed to the Constitution amendments from the beginning, there would have been no bloodletting," the paper says. Even after the bloody suppression of the demonstrators, the five parties in the coalition insisted on giving support to Gen. Suchinda. The five parties lack political sincerity and have not accepted responsibility for what happened. They are now scrambling to form a new government "just because they claim to have more votes in the parliament than the opposition." The paper suggests that: "in case the parliament is not dissolved so that an election can be held after the amendment to the Constitution, the five coalition parties should show their spirit by leaving the formation of a new government to the opposition despite the fact that the opposition is a minority in the parliament."

NAEO NA's 800-word editorial on page 4, entitled: "Difficulty in Forming a New Government," says: "The country will have a more democratic constitution after 10 June when the third reading of the Constitution amendment is over. The next step is the formation of a new government. Who should be nominated as the next prime minister since the leaders of the two largest parties do not have a clean image? Everyone has his eyes set on General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, leader of the New Aspiration Party, the third largest party." The paper says: "Yet it is not that easy. There is still a problem since the opposition bloc commands only 165 against the 195 votes of the government bloc. The only chance for Gen. Chawalit to be nominated as prime minister is when a party in the government alliance switches sides. Anyway, Gen. Chawalit made his stand clear from the beginning: that he would not accept into his coalition any corrupt politicians. This makes things difficult." The paper wonders whether Gen. Chawalit would take back his words and accept one of the five parties as partner in his coalition. In conclusion, the paper says there are two options left: consent of the five parties to let Gen. Chawalit form a minority government, or dissolution of the parliament and the holding of an election.

Constitutional Tribunal Considers Amnesty Decree

BK2705135392 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 27 May 92

[Excerpts] The Constitutional Tribunal this morning met at the National Assembly under the chairmanship of House Speaker Athit Urairat. The tribunal considered the legitimacy of the draft executive decree pardoning the people who committed offences during the rally from 17 to 21 May. [passage omitted]

After the meeting, Athit Urairat said that the tribunal, during today's meeting, only laid down guidelines for deliberations, and will meet again on 3 June to decide whether the draft decree is against the Constitution. Two thirds of the tribunal members, seven out of nine, must vote in favor of the draft legislation [for the legislation to pass]. He added that if the tribunal considered the draft executive decree to be against the Constitution, it will be nullified and will not be submitted to parliament for further consideration. The tribunal was unable to finish deliberations in one meeting because it must thoroughly consider related issues as well.

Army Commander Warns Against Seeking Retribution

BK2805021392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 May 92 pp A1-A2

[Text] "Don't force me into becoming a cornered dog," Army Commander in Chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi was quoted as saying on Tuesday in a clear warning to the public demanding retribution for last week's violence.

A source said Itsaraphong made the statement while discussing with ex-prime minister Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, Supreme Commander ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin and First Army Region Commander Lt Gen Chainarong Nunphakdi attempts by democracy activists to nullify the royal decree absolving the military leaders of their role in the massacre of demonstrators.

The source said the top brass held an urgent meeting at the Supreme Command Headquarters after having avoided public appearances since Suchinda stepped down as prime minister on Sunday.

Pro-democracy groups have called for Suchinda to leave the country, but the ex-prime minister was quoted by the source as telling the three other generals that he would not seek exile abroad.

"Why do I have to flee abroad? I will stay here in my country," the source quoted Suchinda as saying.

Itsaraphong delivered his warning amidst rumours that the military would stage another coup to prevent their power from being shattered by the people's movement.

Rumours were rife that the military was attempting to find new excuses to justify a fresh coup.

The rumours were reinforced by the fact that the troops which were used to crack down on the demonstrations had not returned to their original barracks, sources said.

The sources said about 7,000 soldiers earlier mobilized from Kanchanaburi and Prachin Buri provinces and from the Lop Buri-based Special Warfare Command were now stationed at many Army divisions in Bangkok.

They said soldiers from Kanchana Buri's 19th Infantry Divion were placed on alert at the Territorial Defence Department and troops from Prachin Buri's 2nd Infantry Division were deployed at the 11th Infantry Division in Bang Khen district.

The sources said more troops, whose number could not be ascertained, had been mobilized from provincial infantries to Bangkok-based Army units during the nights of Sunday and Tuesday.

They said Itsaraphong visited all the mobilized troops yesterday.

The sources said the army commanders were told to be on the alert in case violence was instigatd by a "third party".

Acting on the request of the Opposition, the Constitutional Tribunal began on Tuesday to determine whether the amnesty decree was constitutional.

The decree would be regarded as nullified if the tribunal decided that there was no urgency to warrant it. If this happened, it would pave the way for legal action to be taken against those involved in the killings.

Pro-democracy groups continued holding pockets of rallies in several locations around Bangkok, including the Democracy Monument where the bloody crackdowns took place and at Ramkhamhaeng and Thammasat universities.

At the rallies, student activists recounted stories and showed pictures of army brutalities.

Pro-democracy groups have been calling for punitive measures to be taken against those responsible for the carnage, including Itsaraphong, Kaset and Chainarong.

They want the generals to be fired from service and stand trial for their part in the shootings.

Rightist Group Plans To Fight Democracy Activists

BK2805013292 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 May 92 p 1

[Text] A group claiming to represent the former extreme right "Red Gaur" movement plans to revive the organisation in an effort to spearhead opposition against calls for greater democracy.

Sutha Suwannon, who claims to represent the movement, said he and other former members decided to revive the rightwing organisation in view of the present political unrest.

He said the group disagreed with pro-democracy protesters and their activities outside Parliament which led to the incidents on Ratchadamnoen Avenue leading to loss of life and property.

He said the unrest had undermined the country's investment climate by driving away foreign investors.

In a joint statement issued with Klum Kang Kao Thai (Thai Bats), the group demanded that the pro-democracy movement refrain from holding any more demonstrations and that it allow Parliament to tackle all contentious political issues.

The Red Gaur movement formed by retired army general Sudsai Hasdin na Ayutthaya was used as a political tool by the Army's Internal Security Operations Command to counter pro-democracy movements and communist insurgency.

The movement was dissolved after the bloody October 6, 1976 crackdown on student protests inside Thammasat University.

A group calling itself the Confederation for Democracy which Supports His Majesty the King as Head of State yesterday rallied in front of former prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan's home off Phahonyothin Road where they voiced support for his Chat Thai and other pro-military parties to form the next government.

The group of about 40 distributed leaflets criticising the opposition parties for masterminding last week's protests.

The group led by Amon Suwanbuppha demanded that the four opposition parties take full responsibility for the damage caused during the protest.

It also called on the opposition parties to stop using the power of the masses to intimidate the Government.

The rally coincided with a Chat Thai Party meeting at Gen Chatchai's home.

Alleged Money Transfer for Suchinda Denied

BK2605022992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 May 92 p B1

[Excerpts] Thai Military Bank, which is 30 percent owned by the armed forces, said yesterday it had bought US currency worth a total of US$102.8 million between May 8 and 22, but denied that the transactions were linked with an alleged money transfer involving Suchinda Khraprayun.

The bank said its purchases were aimed at covering the long-term US dollar position to prepare for settlement of clients' foreign loans and refinancing. Earlier, Thai Military was rumoured to have assisted Suchinda transfer an alleged US$100 million out of the country.

The embattled prime minister's whereabouts could not be ascertained yesterday. According to an unconfirmed report, Suchinda had fled to Switzerland. [passage omitted]

A trader at a foreign bank branch here said rumours that Suchinda had transferred US$100 million out of the country emerged last Thursday and came from foreign bank offices in Singapore and Hong Kong. He said Thai Military fitted into the rumours largely because it had close connections with the armed forces and because its transactions over a six-day period from May 8-22 were worth close to the US$100 million allegedly taken out of the country by Suchinda.

He noted that the forex transactions involving Thai Military were "unusually" high during the period. [passage omitted]

"The pattern of purchases was the basis for linking Thai Military with the alleged money transfer," he said. [passage omitted]

Suphot Kitisuwan of the Bank of Thailand said foreign exchange transactions from May 17-20 revealed no unusual signs. He said he never heard about the alleged transfer involving Suchinda and Thai Military.

Continued Turmoil Threatens Economic Boom

BK2805075292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0546 GMT 28 May 92

[By Erskine McCullough]

[Text] Bangkok, May 28 (AFP)—Hundreds of millions of dollars of investment earmarked for Thailand has been put on hold following last week's slaying of pro-democracy protesters by the country's military, economic experts say.

And they warn that if the present political turmoil is not halted soon, the country's booming economy may be brought to a grinding halt.

"Companies who had planned to open up here are now sitting and waiting to see if some sort of semi-stable government can be put in place," one Western investment analyst said. "If in the end they decide to go elsewhere, the long-term damage to the economy will be enormous.

"The politicians have got about two to three months to get themselves sorted out. After that it could be too late," he added.

The full extent of the damage done by last week's violence, which officials say claimed 48 lives and independent observers say killed many more, has still to be fully assessed, but already financial firms are marking down the country's expected growth to less than seven per cent this year.

For Thailand that would be a disappointment: Before the political crisis, experts were forcasting growth of up to nine per cent in what has been one of the world's fastest-growing economies.

Thai Military Bank president Supachai Panichpakdi said he was looking toward next year before there is any sign of improvement. "We may have to wait until the second half of 1993 for the recovery," he said.

Olan Chaprawat, senior executive vice president of Siam Commercial Bank, was even more pessimistic, predicting full recovery would take three to five years.

Tourism, the country's biggest single foreign currency earner, was already in a slump following last year's Gulf war, and hotels and airlines are reporting a drop in visitors.

Tourism brought in 4.36 billion dollars in 1991 but experts are now warning of a drop this year, instead of the increase projected earlier by the Bank of Thailand.

Most major hotels have slashed room rates as the battle for fewer visitors heats up.

The Oriental, the city's most famous hotel, has faxed businessmen announcing tariff cuts, while another luxury hotel, the Dusit Thani, is offering up to 50 percent off quoted rates.

"Most of the major hotels are deserted at the moment," a Western businessman said. "They are like ghost hotels."

The English-language NATION newspaper, quoting a source in Thai International Airways, said bookings on the national carrier have fallen 50 to 80 percent in recent days.

A company survey revealed that 246 of 376 passengers booked on a flight from Tokyo had cancelled. An incoming flight the same day from Paris had only 22 people on board.

"The tourist business is really in the doldrums," one tourism industry expert acknowledged. "We are already in the slack period so it will only be at the end of the year, the peak tourist time, that the full long-term damage to the industry can be gauged."

Meanwhile, the country's volatile stock market has continued to drop as the political instability drags on, and market analysts see no upturn in sight.

"We will have uncertainty for the next four to five months and foreign investors are taking a wait-and-see attitude," said one broker.

Many analysts agree that the actual formation of the new government will have little impact on whether the estimated 400 to 500 million dollars estimated to be waiting to be invested begins to flow in to Thailand.

The country's notorious government corruption, while a factor in domestic politics, is not a problem for would-be foreign investors, one analyst said. "All foreign investors want is stability. They can live with corruption."

But if stability is not restored, or the military staged another coup, analysts warn Thailand's economic future could be bleak indeed.

"Thailand would become a basket case and all it has achieved in the past few years would be for nothing," said one. "It would be a tragedy."

Former Premier Anan on Suchinda's Resignation

BK2705143792 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Anan Panyarachun, former prime minister and former official of the Foreign Ministry, this afternoon attended the get-together party of the Foreign Ministry's pensioners at the ministry. Addressing the gathering, the former prime minister said that the recent political crisis was a sad incident and he appealed to everyone to firmly bear in mind the talk given by His Majesty the King to General Suchinda Khraprayun and Major General Chamlong Simuang because it propounded profound justice and recommended the middle path as the means of solving the country's problems.

He noted that the circumstances he encountered in the past were detrimental to his reputation, although not to his life. He had to spend some time forgiving but not forgetting. At present, the minds of the people have been greatly offended. The people who were involved in the destructive acts must dare to show their sense of responsibility, both political and ethical. No one should rely merely on his own judgement. Everything must be evaluated and judged by the opinions of the majority. The events of the past have eroded the Thai people's confidence in both social and political systems because they do not know what will happen in the future. Thai society must be based on compromise, not only in principle but also in action. Everyone should be responsible for the progress of society for the benefit of the entire Thai people.

Asked about the call for legal actions against General Suchinda Khraprayun, the former prime minister said that we cannot use the word punishment with General Suchinda because we do not know his mistake. General Suchinda has already demonstrated his political responsibility by resigning from the premiership.

Foreign Minister Urges Normal Ties With Taiwan

OW2605085892 Taipei CNA in English 0803 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Bangkok, May 25 (CNA)—Thai Foreign Minister Pongphon Adireksan said here Wednesday that the recent political unrest in Bangkok has not affected the relations between the Republic of China [ROC] and Thailand.

The minister said he hopes Taiwan businessmen and tourists would continue to visit his country as the situation in the kingdom has returned to normal.

Pongphon, in a special interview with the CNA at the parliament building, said that Thailand and the Republic of China have maintained normal relations in the fields of trade, economy, and social activities.

The foreign minister said he believed that the relations between the two countries will become closer.

Exchange of visits by ranking officials between Taipei and Bangkok has to be discussed by both sides, he added.

Pongphon, who had accompanied his father to visit the ROC twice, said Thailand thanks the ROC for opening its labour market to Thais, from which Thailand has benefited a lot.

"However, of the 25,000 Thai workers currently in Taiwan, 10,000 are illegal," he revealed. He suggested the two countries cooperate in preventing Thai people from working illegally in Taiwan.

Vietnam

Vice Minister Meets U.S. Officials in Washington

BK2805072892 Hanoi VNA in English 0629 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 28—U.S. Undersecretary of State A. Kanter on Tuesday said the U.S. Government was committed to normalisation with Vietnam and wished to see the process accelerated together with the settlement of outstanding problems including the MIA issue.

Mr. Kanter made the statement during a meeting in Washington with Vietnam's Deputy Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co, who had just been to a seminar on Vietnam in Virginia.

The Vietnamese official told his American counterpart that Vietnam wanted to pave friendly relations with all countries including the United States.

Such relations must be built on the principle of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, he said.

Vietnam will give full cooperation, as it has been doing so far, in settling the MIA issue, one of the consequences of the war, Mr. Co added.

Present at the reception were on the US side Assistant Secretary of State R. Solomon and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State K. Quinn, and on the Vietnamese side Ambassador Trinh Xuan Lang, head of the Vietnamese permanent mission at the United Nations and co-chairman of the Vietnamese-US working group.

On the same day Mr. Co had a meeting at the Pentagon with U.S. Under Secretary of Defense P. Wolfowitz and other American representatives.

Also attending the reception were J. Lilley, assistant secretary of defense, A. Griffith, executive director of the National League of POW/MIA families, and G. Pan, representative of the National Security Council, and other high-ranking officers of the Department of Defense.

The exchange of views took place with frankness and mutual understanding.

Foreign Minister Visits France 24-26 May

BK2705153192 Hanoi VNA in English 1506 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 27—Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam paid an official visit to France from May 24-26 beginning his tour of a number of European countries at the invitation of their governments.

While in France, Nguyen Manh Cam was received by Prime Minister Pierre Beregovoy, who signed with him an agreement on encouragement and reciprocal protection of investments between the two countries.

Minister Nguyen Manh Cam held talks with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. He and French Minister of Economy and Finance Michel Sapin signed a protocol on building a microwave line from Danang (central Vietnam) to Ho Chi Minh City with a total capital of 43 million French francs, including 22 million as non-refundable aid from the French Government.

Nguyen Manh Cam also met with representatives of the French Communist Party and Socialist Party, the leadership of the National League of French Employers, French friends, and Vietnamese residents in France.

He conveyed letters from President of the State Council Vo Chi Cong and Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet on inviting President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister P. Beregovoy to visit Vietnam.

Minister Nguyen Manm Cam highly valued the French people and government's economic, financial, cultural, and scientific and technical assistance to Vietnam, especially France's initiative and efforts for the normalization of relations between Vietnam and international monetary and financial organizations and the European Community.

Prime Minister P. Beregovoy, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, Minister Michel Sapin and Delegate Minister of Foreign Affairs Kiejman highly appreciated Vietnam's achievements in its renovation progress. They expressed satisfaction at the fine development of the all-sided relations between the two countries and reiterated France's willingness to continue assisting Vietnam, to enhance relations in all fields between the two countries, as well as multilateral relations among French-speaking countries on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

They announced the French Government's decision to give 130 million francs as gratuitous aid to Vietnam in 1992, an increase of 37 [as received] over last year.

Joint Business Leaders Explore Trade Options

BK2705103192 Hanoi VNA in English 0605 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 27—A delegation from the Bangkok-based Franco-Thai Chamber of Commerce made in-depth investigation on trade and investment opportunities during a recent nine-day tour of Vietnam.

The delegation led by Bernard Festy, president, was made up by Thai and resident French business people and representatives, of firms operating in agriculture, industry, real estate, banking, and other fields.

These were also joined by personalities who came specifically to take part in discussions on subjects ranging from trade relations between Vietnam and Thailand, the role of the World Bank in Vietnam's economic development, possibilities of financial backing by foreign banks operating in Vietnam, and experience of a French industrial and commercial groups working in Vietnam for almost four years now.

A press release by the delegation quoted by VIETNAM NEWS says that in Hanoi the members had 'very interesting and constructive' talks with the authorities, they were received by First Vice Premier Phan Van Khai, high-ranking officials of the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), the State Planning Committee, the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment (SCCI), the Hanoi People's Committee, as well au Vietnam State Bank Governor-General Cao Sy Kiem.

In Ho Chi Minh City the delegation met with representatives of VCCI, SCCI and Eximbank, it also made a tour of the Mekong River delta and the province of Ba Ria-Vung Tau.

The press release said that members of the delegation were "very interested" in the different meetings, which gave them an "excellent chance to acquaint themselves with the present economic situation in Vietnam."

"Concrete investment projects will be studied now" the press release adds.

Consular Affairs Official Meets Thai Ambassador

BK2705154592 Hanoi VNA in English 1515 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 27—The head of the Consular Affairs Department of the Foreign Ministry today handed an aide-memoire to the ambassador of the kingdom of Thailand to Vietnam saying at 1500 hrs on May 23, 1992 a ship of the Thai navy bearing number Tak Ba1 attacked Vietnamese fishing boats and captured one boat and 15 fishermen fishing in Vietnamese territorial waters at 8.06 degrees north latitude and 103.36 degrees east longitude. The head of the Consular Affairs Department of the Foreign Ministry stressed that this incident came in the wake of the incident on March 4,1992 in which Thai naval craft sank a Vietnamese patrol boat and captured 15 Vietnamese coast guards and took them to Thailand for detention. He said this constituted a serious violation of Vientam's sovereignty and an inimical act detrimental to the developing relations of cooperation between the two countries. He demanded that the Thai side take drastic measures to prevent similar incidents and set free and return immediately the 30 crew members of the two abovementioned craft.

Success of Nonaligned Movement Conference Hailed

BK2705140592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 1[illegible] May 92

[Article by Duong Quang Minh]

[Text] The foreign ministerial conference of the Nonaligned Movement's Coordinating Committee in Bali, Indonesia—with the participation of 110 member countries—was concluded recently. The conference was held in anticipation of the forthcoming Nonaligned Movement's 10th Summit Conference to be held in Jakarta in September.

The foreign ministerial conference of the Nonaligned Movement's Coordinating Committee was held at the time of swift changes in the world situation: Socialism was facing a serious crisis; the Soviet Union was experiencing disintegration; former Soviet republics and Eastern European countries were rejecting the path set during the past decades; and the U.S.-Soviet military balance was at a different postion. However, there have been no changes in the fundamental objectives of the Nonaligned Movement. Actually, the movement has maintained its strategic orientations and adopted a lively, flexible policy to suit the current situation.

Through discussion at the Bali Conference, foreign ministers of most countries expressed an identity of views on many issues. They included, first, the efforts to ensure a long-lasting peace and security, continuation of the struggle for disarmament especially nuclear weapons, and the maintenance of regional and world peace and security. The conference held that as long as dependence, inequality, and the application of politico-military-economic measures to resolve such global issues as the environment, human rights, democracy, and so forth, still exist, the Nonaligned Movement must enhance its vigilance to cope with this situation. The general objectives of the movement are to respect the independence and sovereignty of nations as well as their rights to choose a political system and a socioeconomic development path suiting their conditions. At present, many conflicts faced by several member countries of the movement are being resolved, yet bitterness is still prevalent. These include loss of territory experienced by the Palestinians, maltreatment of the South African people, threats against Cuba and other Muslim countries by stronger nations, and so forth. For this reason, the Nonaligned Movement must enhance its solidarity, together with the world community, to overcome this bitterness and to oppose the forces that want to maintain it.

Second, the Nonaligned Movement has realized the deteriorating economic situation of many member countries and has made great efforts to narrow the gap between the developing and developed nations. It is well-known, however, that at present the countries of the Nonaligned Movement are bearing a huge debt of $1,200 billion and many of them have no means whatsover to repay this debt. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization has estimated that at present more than one billion people, or one-fifth of the world population, endure a very low standard of living, while people in the developed capitalist countries enjoy a life 70 times better that the latter. To develop the economy of underdeveloped nations, member countries of the movement must make greatter efforts to expand cooperation among them. They must strengthen their solidarity in order to demand that developed capitalist countries respect equality in trade, refrain from indiscriminately exploitating natural resources of the nonaligned countries, and expand cooperation with developing nations on the basis of mutual interests.

Third, the conference reasserted the people's fundamental rights, including their rights to development; asserted the effective implementation of human rights through international cooperation rather than through conflicts; demanded appropriate measures for resolving human rights issues; and called for efforts to refrain from using democratic and political issues as a mean to set conditions for socioeconomic aid—a measure frequently used by developed capitalist countries. To fulfill these important tasks, the conference once again asserted that the Nonaligned Movement must strive to develop the emerging opportunities in the new world situation, strengthen its solidarity, and enhance the movement's program of action.

Close solidarity among member nations will create a strong force for the movement to oppose foreign pressure, threats, interference, and imposition. Solidarity and uniform in action will create conditions for the movement to have more weight in the process of establishing the new world order.

While making its utmost efforts to fulfill tasks, the Nonaligned Movement calls for the United Nations—a bigger international body—to firmly maintain its stand and to fulfill its missions entrusted to it by a progressive mankind.

In its press statement, the Bali conference stressed that the Nonaligned Movement, while respecting the UN role in maintaining peace and security and in accelerating cooperation for development, has encouraged efforts to democratize the United Nations especially the UN Security Council.

The Vietnamese people welcome results of the recent foreign ministerial conference of the Nonaligned Movement's Coordinating Committee in Bali. We highly appraise the efforts made by Indonesia, the host country, to ensure success for the conference.

As a member of the Nonaligned Movement, Vietnam has consistently struggled for the best results for the movement and pledges that it will do its best to contribute to making the Nonaligned Movement's 10th Summit Conference in Indonesia in September, a splendid success, thereby enhancing the movement's high prestige in the international arena.

Central Vietnam Telecommunication Line Inaugurated

BK2705093092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] In the morning of 25 May in Qui Nhon Town of Binh Dinh Province, the Vietnam Posts and Telecommunication Corporation held a ceremony to inaugurate the Central Vietnam-West Highland Microwave Communication Line. The line had been under construction since 1991 and consists of 20 stations and antenna posts with 60 channels at the cost of 13 billion dong. After nearly one year of construction, the entire line was completed with equipment supplied by the Vietnam postal service and the AWA Company of Australia.

Speaking at the ceremony, Comrade Dang Van Than, member of the party Central Committee and general director of the Vietnam Posts and Telecommunication Corporation said that the completion of the line was an important step towards a significant improvement in the capacity and quality of the national and international communication service for provinces in Central Vietnam and the West Highlands. In order to meet the demands of the renovation undertaking, in the future the postal service will develop and modernize the transmission system of level one and level two. At present, the sector is urgently constructing the Hanoi-Ho Chi Minh City Telecommunication Line with fiber optical cable and a microwave system which is to be put into service by the end of 1993.

Do Muoi Speaks at Women's Union Congress

Part 1

BK2105160392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 19 May 92

["Part 1" of party General Secretary Do Muoi's speech at 19 May opening of the Seventh National Congress of the Vietnam Women's Union in Hanoi—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear members of the presidium, comrade delegates, and foreign guests: Today, I am very happy to attend the Seventh National Congress of the Vietnam Women's Union where I have the chance to meet the outstanding representatives of the women's movement from all parts of the country. May I avail myself of this opportunity to warmly welcome all of you and, through you, to convey my cordial salutations and the party Central Committee's best regards to all other Vietnamese women throughout the country.

In the history of several thousand years of struggle to build and defend the nation undertaken by our ancestors and their offspring, our Vietnamese women have, together with our entire people, achieved glorious results and built and developed the fine traditions of our Vietnamese women and the nation as a whole. Our sisters have made their presence felt in all aspects of life and have assumed an important role as stalwart, courageous, anti-foreign aggression fighters; as hard-working, creative, and intelligent blue- and white-collar workers; as artists who contribute their share to safeguarding and developing our people's cultural character; or as gentle, responsible, and faithful housewives.

Being aware of their great role and glorious traditions, our Vietnamese women have worked hard to ensure the well-being and education of their children, thus giving birth to many heroic generations to benefit the cause of national construction and defense. The performance of the Trung Sisters, Trieu Au, Admiral Bui Thi Xuan, Poet Ho Xuan Huong, Nguyen Thi Minh Khai, Nguyen Thi Chuyen, Vo Thi Sau, and other women will be remembered forever and will help further demonstrate the heroic traditions of Vietnamese women and our nation as a whole.

Our sisters have developed the aforementioned traditions through the "Three Responsibilities" emulation movement, the long-haired army, and the protracted struggle for national independence. The role, meritorious services, and great sacrifices of our Vietnamese women of all walks of life and different ethnic groups in every part of the country have been highly appreciated by our party, state, and people. Venerated Uncle Ho once used the terms "heroic, steadfast, faithful, and responsible" to show his appreciation for our Vietnamese women's fine traditions.

At present, our Vietnamese women are positively contributing their talents, wisdom, and strength to all areas of activities. Many of them are farmers, factory workers, school teachers, or public healthcare workers. Others are civil servants, scientific researchers, or business people. Their workplaces and positions may differ but they all have one thing in common: They always work hard, display dynamism and creativeness, and make constant efforts for self-improvement in order to contribute to the task of making the nation strong and the people rich. Our party, state, and people highly appreciate our Vietnamese women's role and their contributions to the renovation undertaking.

Meanwhile, our sisters have assumed a very important social role, being individuals who are directly responsible for child care and education, who look after the family's well-being, and who serve as both good wives and mothers at a time when the nation is still fraught with many difficulties and hardships.

So far, in its capacity as representative of Vietnamese women throughout the country, the Vietnam Women's Union has developed the fine nature and great potential of tens of millions of women and has motivated large numbers of our sisters to positively contribute to the task of building and defending the fatherland, as well as to carrying on the movement for women's liberation and emancipation.

Being sensitive to the party's renovation lines, all union echelons have promptly shifted their activities to make them consistent with the new mechanism, thus contributing their fair share to the initial yet very important achievements of the renovation undertaking, as well as to the struggle to protect women and children's rights.

Under the union's guidance, our sisters have enthusiastically responded to the movement to help one another in developing the household economy, in providing good child care and child education, and in reducing the number of school dropouts and children affected by malnutrition. The union has taken the initiative in contributing suggestions to the party and state as how to build a new mechanism governing the party leadership over mass organizations, thus exercising the right to have a say in the management of state affairs and contributing to protecting women and children's rights. The union has also taken bold measures to renovate its organization and operating procedures to make them more diversified, dynamic, and effective, drawing large numbers of women to join vocational training centers; credit loan services in support of production and business activities; job placement centers; marriage, family counselling, and family planning centers; reconciliation cells; learning centers for street kids; life preparedness clubs; young mothers' clubs; and so forth.

At the same time, by broadening its international relations, the union has gained support from friends all over the world and has made use of the various foreign-funded projects to support its activities aimed at enhancing the role of women and improving the living conditions of women and children.

So far, to overcome the evils of red tape, bureaucratism, and tendency to alienate oneself from the masses, women's union chapters from the central down to the provincial, city, and district levels have focussed their activities on grassroots women's organizations. Cadres have gone out of their way to meet and motivate women's union members in subwards, villages, and hamlets to participate in the various women's movements. On behalf of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee, I would like to warmly commend our Vietnamese women for their achievements and contributions and women's union echelons for their efforts and endeavors.

Dear sisters: The Vietnam Women's Union Congress this time takes place at a time when the international situation has developed very complicatedly but has also presented new opportunities. Although it is on the upbeat, the national situation is still fraught with many difficulties.

We are positive that since the sixth and seventh national party congresses, the renovation undertaking has developed vigorously on many fronts and has recorded initial yet very important results. Together with the common progress of the entire nation, the movement for women's liberation and emancipation has made positive changes. The cause of national renovation and development has given rise to a new concept on women's role and position, as well as on the equality between men and women as citizens. Narrow-minded concepts have been overcome step by step. Society has adopted a more open-minded and more impartial attitude toward women. A fundamental point is that as far as the new mechanism is concerned, those sisters who prove themselves to be really capable through their dynamism and creativeness have succeeded in developing their roles in all domains. This fact explains why over the past several years, we have witnessed more and more models of women doing a good job in economic, cultural, social, and scientific development as well as in the management of state affairs.

We must admit that besides those encouraging changes brought about by the renovation undertaking, much remains to be done. Urgent measures are needed to overcome the various negative aspects of social life. Now that the nation as a whole has not extricated itself from backwardness and poverty, as housewives, women still have a lot of problems to tackle. Unemployment, prostitution, gambling, drug addiction, and juvenile deliquency are on the rise. The lifestyle based on the need to enjoy life and do anything to have money has posed a danger to the happiness of many families as well as to healthy social relations. Those heartwrenching phenomenon and their adverse consequences weigh first of all on women's shoulders.

In accelerating the cause of renovation and development, our party and state have always sought ways to contain and overcome those negative indications and social vices, which are the negative side of the market mechanism. The party and state hope and believe that as citizens and in their capacities as wives and mothers, our Vietnamese women will actively and effectively participate in that task for the sake of the future of both the nation and their children, as well as for the sake of the happiness of each family and all women.

Vietnamese women are always patriotic, humane, and very industrious and thrifty. These valuable qualities help women develop their mind, energy, intelligence, and ability to cooperate with the people countrywide in the struggle to surge forward and contribute to national construction and defense, to get our country out of backwardness and poverty, to make the people prosperous and the country strong, progressive, and civilized, and to successfully build socialism.

With the function of an organization representing women's equal and democratic rights and legal interests, the women's union should continually renovate its activities and unite and rally more broadly all women workers, peasants, intellectuals, and other women of all ethnicities, religions, as well as overseas Vietnamese women. It should strive to achieve the objectives set by your congress this time, which are solidarity and renovation for the sake of equality, and the development and happiness of women in order to contribute to building new Vietnamese women who are dynamic, creative, knowledgeable, humane, and keen on social and communal interests. This is an image for Vietnamese women in the period of renovation in our country.

In the present society, with the new management mechanism and with the multisectorial economy of commodities, women are required to be dynamic and creative so as to contribute effectively to all domains from agricultural, industrial and handicraft production, trade, and service to culture, education, public health, science, national defense, security, social management, and state management.

The Vietnam Women's Union should organize, mobilize, encourage, and help women; it should create conditions for women to develop their valuable qualities and strengths, and enhance their knowledge and ability so that they can satisfactorily fulfill their work. It should give attention to basic and refresher training of ever more competent and qualified women and create conditions for women to assume key positions in various domains or to surge forward and occupy scientific peaks in order to satisfactorily accomplish sexual equality, as solemnly stipulated in our country's constitution.

What we should pay attention to is that production and business must be in accordance with law. Dynamism and creativity must remain within the framework of law in terms of fulfilling obligations to the state. This is a very important point and everyone, including women, should put it into practise correctly and most satisfactorily.

Since our country is still poor, women must take the lead in practicing thrift to build the country. They must set good examples and encourage everybody to use domestic goods in order to help develop domestic production. Along with accelerating the domestic movement vigorously, the union should expand its relations of friendship and cooperation with women and their organizations in other countries in order to intensify the knowledge of women and people in the world about Vietnamese women and the country of Vietnam, contribute to firmly maintaining peace, stability, and development in the region and the world over, and secure the support and assistance of international friends.

As for the families, no one can deny the paramount role of women in an important period of life of each person and society as a whole. Women are the central personages who care for the physical, moral and emotional activities of all households, and preserve and cultivate the fine traditional factors of Vietnamese families.

Part 2

BK2305145992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 19 May 92

["Second and last part" of party General Secretary Do Muoi's speech at 19 May opening of the Seventh National Congress of the Vietnam Women's Union in Hanoi—read by announcer]

[Text] At present, while developing the country, we are concerned about problems such as the increase in divorce cases, contempt for good morals, customs, and family ethics, acts of violence in families, and unbecoming behavior toward parents, spouses, and children. To overcome this, the party and mass organizations should intensively educate all party members and citizens on ethics, character, and building new cultural families. State agencies at all levels should promptly uphold the law in general, and the law protecting the interests of women and children in particular. Public opinion should condemn immoral and irresponsible behavior within the family. Social services must be developed. At the same time, men must also help at home to alleviate their heavy duties of women and enable them to participate more in social work.

As for women's unions at all echelons, they should attentively educate women about their roles as children, wives, and mothers who can cultivate good qualities and set examples for the whole family. This is an important factor contributing to building happy families. Family planning is the task of the entire society and primarily the responsibility of women and women's unions for the future and happiness of the whole nation and their own.

During my visits to many localities and installations, I know women's unions at all echelons are very concerned about their cadres who, though eager and devoted, have limited ability and knowledge and are unable to meet the operational requirements of the current new mechanism. The party and state must formulate concrete policies to create even more favorable conditions to give women cadres basic training. On your part, I expect that you and your unions will be more active in resolving difficulties, avoiding an inferiority complex, and asserting your ability and knowledge for the new requirements. Only by doing so can we build a strong contingent of women cadres and a truly new women's movement.

In the 60 years or more of stalwart, hard, and dangerous struggle, the Communist Party of Vietnam had no other objectives than leading the people to regain independence and freedom, to enrich the people, strengthen the country, and give the people a life of happiness and plenty and institute sexual equality. We therefore cannot set our mind at ease when our people are still poor and our women are living a life of hardship. In outlying areas and zones of ethnic minority people, women still have to live in poverty, backwardness, and illiteracy. Moreover, the market mechanism has increased the gap between the rich and poor.

We must formulate correct policies to encourage the people to enrich themselves while reducing the number of poor households. This and raising the people's intellectual standard are the duties of the entire party and the government. Women's union must pay attention to this. They must help poor households and people, and help raise the standard of living and intellect of women.

We should expand social and charity activities to help needy households. The union should mobilize and help women, especially needy families in order to nurture the children, fight malnutrition, and send children to school for the sake of the country's future and the family's happiness.

I hope that at this women's national congress, you will debate and exchange views to determine the correct and suitable operational guidelines and to formulate plans and measures to implement your plans well. Evidently, if we want women's unions at all echelons to operate well, the union alone is not sufficient. There must be leadership and concern for the party, coordination and cooperation of the administration, and the earnest support of all sectors, echelons, and mass organizations.

All party members and people have the duty to build and nurture the women's movement. We must hold correct views on women and their movement, considering it part of the revolutionary movement. We must respect the initiative and creativity of women's unions, achieve democracy in leading the unions, and avoid all forms of imposition and restriction. We should implement well directive 44 of the party Central Committee secretariat which opposes contempt for women, and criticizes and condemns the rigorous and narrow-minded attitudes toward the appraisal and employment of women cadres. We must pay attention to the basic and advanced training, selection and promotion of women cadres, and creating conditions for them to progress.

The state system including legislative, executive, and judiciary agencies together with Vietnam Women's Union should concretize the new constitution of our country, dealing with issues related to women and children. We should promulgate laws and policies, adopt programs and plans, and promptly implement them. We must scrupulously implement Decision 163 of the Council of Ministers, and perfect the mechanism of coordination between Vietnam Women's Union and the administration at all levels to carry out women motivation well.

Vietnam Women's Union must study policies and systems toward women and children, especially in the regions with ethnic minorities, in order to propose and petition suitable amendments and addenda to the party and the state.

I am convinced that under the leadership of party committee echelons and with the coordination and cooperation of the administration at all levels, solidarity and assistance of the front and various mass organizations, and the effort of the union itself, the women's movement in our country will score many outstanding achievements in the coming days to actively contribute to the current renovation rife with difficulties and challenges yet full of promises.

Obeying Ho Chi Minh's Military Teachings Urged

BK2505071192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 17 May 92

[Article by Doan Chuong: "Let's Remember Uncle Ho's Teachings of Years Gone By"]

[Text] As if it were a fine tradition and sentiment in the life of our troops, every year Uncle Ho's birthday anniversary is an occasion for us to recall his teachings, because of the simple but profound reason that Uncle Ho is the beloved father of the people's armed forces. Before he departed, he did not forget to leave behind umpteen affectionate feelings. Our sentiment toward him is something sacred in the heart of Uncle Ho's soldiers. More than ever before, his teachings years ago have been engraved deeply in our mind: If the Hung kings earned the merits of founding our country, you and I have to strenuously defend our country. These were our Uncle's teachings to the cadres and combatants of the Tien Phong Division in October 1954 at the historic Hung Temple while the division was en route to take over the capital.

After many years of hard and dangerous combat, full of sacrifices, in order to regain independence, freedom, and unity for the country, our people now have no other desire than to live and work in peace, to enrich themselves and strengthen their country, to shorten the gaps between our country and many nations in the world, and to compensate for the many years of hard, dangerous combat and destructive war.

Our Vietnamese nation—a stalwart nation that has bravely fought to cleanse the country of any shame—certainly will not resign itself to the shameful fate of poverty and backwardness. The renovation lines of the sixth and seventh party congresses have opened a new horizon for our people's renovation process, and have achieved important initial results to assert the correctness of our path.

However, hostile forces have not relinquished their plots nor given us peace. Following the collapse of socialism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, they are plotting to take advantage of the opportunity to advance toward eliminating socialism in the remaining countries and, of course, Vietnam is not an exception.

Former U.S. President Richard Nixon's books *Nineteen Ninety-Nine: Victory Without War* and *Nineteen Ninety-Nine: The Global Challenges We Face in the Next Decade* have clearly pointed to this plot.

This plot is carried out by peaceful evolution using what are called Western values: Freedom, democracy, human rights, political pluralism, multipartite opposition, and free market economy in order to exert pressure in several ways on our internal affairs, make us undergo change, and betray ourselves just as the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe have done—learning a bitter lesson in the process.

Western radios have daily harped on the same tune. The reactionaries in exile have also sought every means of rallying their forces and putting pressure on the country. Meanwhile, factors of instability do exist inside the country in terms of loopholes and inside connections on which outside enemies might capitalize.

Nowadays, threats to national security are posed by hostile forces not only outside but also inside, and not only by wars but also by many other flexible means such as politics, ideology, culture, economy, foreign policies, and so forth.

The defense of the homeland is closely attached to the defense of the socialist regime; just as Lenin said: We should defend socialism as a homeland. National defense is closely attached to security in the duty of defending the socialist homeland. The Army troops and the public security forces must unite and coordinate with each other closely in carrying out this sacred duty.

Reflecting on the several occasions in national history when we lost our country to the enemies can teach us useful lessons: namely, the loss of vigilance by lady My Chau in the An Duong Vuong period, the failure of relying on and using the people as a base during the Ho dynasty and many other periods of decadence of the regime, conflicts in various dynasties, disunity, starvation, and poverty among the people, and so forth.

The value of a revolution lies in its ability to defend iself. We can not rest on the laurels of peace as long as the wolves are still lying in wait. Our national policy now is peace, stability, independence and development. We are struggling to preserve lasting peace and stability in order to concentrate on building the economy and the country, overcome the socioeconomic crisis, and surmount poverty and obstacles to advancement. At the same time, we are ready to cope with all circumstances to firmly defend the socialist Vietnam Fatherland and all revolutionary gains.

Our forefathers said: Rest on the people's strength as a method of defending the country. This is the best policy for national defense. Nowadays, we must consider the task of pacifying the people and firmly maintaining the regime as a long-term plan so as to defend the country and, at the same time, to secure enough strength to readily cope with all situations.

The party's political platform clearly indicates that the stability and comprehensive development of all aspects of social life serve as the base for national defense and security. Consolidating national defense and firmly assuring national security must primarily rest on the battle plan for winning the people's hearts. If the party and the state remain stable, the people and troops are strong, and the party, the administration, the people, and troops unite together into a bloc, the enemy can not do anything against us.

Stability and solidarity constitute the first priority and an operational force. Our troops must contribute actively to this issue by carrying out their mass motivation and propaganda tasks and avoiding negative deeds, which adversely affect political stability and Army-people solidarity.

Since we used our own strength to liberate ouselves, we must now use our own strength to build our country, enrich our people and strengthen our country, and promote the superiority of our regime. This must be thoroughly understood by all echelons, sectors, and people, and be reflected by their actions. For example, a vote in the forthcoming National Assembly elections must reflect citizens' responsibility for building the regime and the country. Each economic, technical, or cultural and social plan must attach national construction closely to national defense. Every plan to open the investment door must ensure the socialist orientations, national independence, sovereignty, character, and so forth.

While placing national construction at the forefront, we should never neglect vigilance. Along with developing the socioeconomic situation, we should intensify our potential of national defense and security, and secure sufficient strength to readily cope with all situations. In peace time, although the Army must reduce its personnel strength and streamline its organization, it must struggle to constantly enhance its combat duty and first of all its political responsibility to ensure that it always remains a reliable force of the party, the state, and the people.

The party's political platform clearly specifies that consolidating national defense and firmly maintaining national security are the paramount and regular tasks of all the people and the state. Uncle Ho repeatedly urged: You and I you must strenuously defend the country. This means that from the top leader of the party and the state to the ordinary people, all must share the responsibility and duty of defending the country. It is a question of national defense and not merely military defense. It must involve all the people, all domains, and an integrated force to defend the country. This is the profound meaning of the party's viewpoint and line on the all-people national defense.

To sum up, let's remember our Uncle's teachings years ago and not forget to build up national defense potential in defending our country.

Fiji

Mara Says India Only Obstacle to Respectability

BK2505113592 Hong Kong AFP in English 1051 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Suva, May 25 (AFP)—India is the only remaining obstacle to Fiji achieving pre-coup respectability in the international community, outgoing prime minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara said here Monday.

"With the exception of India, Fiji's international relations at this stage are more or less back to normal," said Mara, who retires as prime minister with the conclusion of this week's general elections.

Mara said he hoped the new foreign minister would work towards mending ties with New Delhi.

Relations between the two countries have been strained since Fiji told India to close its consulate in Suva in April 1990 and expelled its diplomatic staff.

The move followed claims by Mara's interim administration that Indian diplomats were interfering in local politics.

India has been a vocal critic of Fiji since the 1987 coup that toppled the elected government of Timoci Bavadra and has criticized its 1990 constitution as racist.

The constitution discriminates against ethnic Indians in favor of indigenous Fijians.

Fijians are allocated 37 seats in the new parliament to the Indians' 27, although the size of the two races in the country is about equal.

New Delhi, which maintains a trade ban on Fiji, is blocking the country's efforts to return to the Commonwealth after its automatic expulsion when it abrogated its 1970 constitution in October 1987 and declared itself a republic.

Rabuka Outlines Government Policies if Elected

BK2705125192 Hong Kong AFP in English 0655 GMT 27 May 92

[By Davendra Sharma]

[Text] Suva, May 27 (AFP)—Former Fiji army strongman Sitiveni Rabuka intends forming a government by Monday but he is still open to partnership with rival parties, he revealed here Wednesday.

In an interview with Agence France-Presse here, he lashed out at the two other leading prime ministerial contenders, both members of his own party, for opposing him "when they should be supporting."

Rabuka said he was upset with former deputy prime minister and finance minister Josevata Kamikamica and veteran politician Ratu William Toganivalu for standing against him and spoiling his chances of leading the next government.

Rabuka was chosen president of the Fiji People's Party (FPP) last October.

"If they wanted to be leader, they should have stood up then for nomination," he said of his rivals.

"It upsets me when this (infighting for the prime ministership) is stressed over and over again in the papers."

The FPP is frontrunner to form the next government but it may need a coalition with other rival parties.

Rabuka predicted it would win 30 of the 37 seats reserved for ethnic Fijians in the 70-member parliament.

He said he would prefer a government of national unity possibly including Indian representatives.

"I am still open to coalitions but I would have to see what my group wants," he said.

He will hold an executive meeting of his party on Sunday night to discuss the prime ministership and choice of coalition partners.

He ruled out the possibility of Fiji's president, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, asking the current caretaker administration to continue.

"There is no fear at all that there will be a delay. If there's any delay, it will be on the president's side," he said.

Rabuka, who led two coups in 1987 to overthrow the country's first Indian-led government and ensure Melanesian domination, said he wanted to cultivate closer relations with Fiji's vast Indian community.

The Indians, descendants of workers brought by the British to cut sugar-cane, make up 44 per cent of Fiji's 740,000 population and have been given 27 seats in the new parliament, with the remaining six reserved for small minorities.

"We've to look at inter-racial co-existence to try and soften the sharp edge that still exists between the races," Rabuka said.

"I want to create a new awareness that would change or soften the divisions between races."

A Rabuka government would see greater ties with France, Malaysia, Indonesia and the South-East Asian region.

He told AFP that he would work to strengthen defence and trade ties with France and Indonesia, saying, "They've stood by us during our time of need."

Rabuka said Fiji should emulate the economic successes of South Korea and Taiwan— which have made a significant turnaround over the years.

"Let's look at South Korea, what they did was borrowed heavily and developed. Taiwan borrowed heavily and look at where they are now.

"We've a good standiing in credit rating internationally. Perhaps we can dig a little deeper into other people's pockets and ensure we maintain our debt servicing."

Candidate for Premier Views Election Process

BK2705123192 Hong Kong AFP in English 0550 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Suva, May 27 (AFP)—The dominant party contesting Fiji's first elections since the 1987 coup will need a sizeable majority if it is to win the right to form a government, according to prime ministerial aspirant Ratu William Toganivalu.

"Whoever wins the election must hold the majority power in parliament, otherwise there will be a vote of no confidence," Toganivalu, a veteran politician, said in a newspaper interview here on Tuesday.

Toganivalu, a member of parliament since 1966, is vying with coup leader Sitiveni Rabuka and former finance minister Josevata Kamikamica, all members of the Fiji People's Party (FPP) for the office of prime minister.

"The person who commands the majority respect amongst the Fijians, Indians, Europeans and the rest in parliament should be the next prime minister," he said.

A former soldier and a hereditary indigenous chief, Tonganivalu, 64, is tipped as a possible compromise choice between Kamikamica and Rabuka.

Some analysts believe that Tonganivalu is more likely than his rivals to collect votes from Indian parliamentarians.

Under the constitution promulgated by the interim government in July 1990, three years after the coup, 37 of the 70 seats in parliament are reserved for native Fijian MPs, 27 for ethnic Indians and six for small minorities.

Tonganivalu is popular among the chiefs, who under the mantle of the Great Council of Chiefs have emerged as the ultimate power brokers in Fijian politics since Rabuka's coup.

Tonganivalu is a former minister of Fijian affairs and land, both portfolios requiring trust and close liaison with the chiefs and was also home affairs minister.

His background in the military—he served in the Malaya Emergency in 1952—gives him a tie to the army.

Elections, which began last Saturday, run until this Saturday, and President Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau is expected to announce on Monday who will be asked to form a government as prime minister.

Ganilau's choice, which under the constitution must be an indigenous Fijian, will depend on which man he perceives as majority support in the parliament.

Toganivalu declined to speculate on possible coalition partners should the FPP not win a clear majority.

"It is too early to be making a prediction," he said on Tuesday.

Toganivalu also declined comment on whether he would back Rabuka, president of the FPP, for the post should he fail to gain majority support.

He is on record saying: "Rabuka should go back to school for five years."

But he ran into a scandal last month when angry Fijian villagers questioned his loyalty in awarding a transport contract to an ethnic Indian company over indigenous operators.

Tonganivalu said the last interim government had done its best to integrate Fijians in business and ensure that Fijian native land was returned to its traditional owners.